

Grand Encampment of Knights Templar



THE APARTMENTS OF THE GRAND PRELATE *and* THE RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Year of Our Lord 2018 to all Valiant and Magnanimous Knights of the Temple, wheresoever dispersed throughout Christendom ~ Salutations and Knightly Greetings:

A TOAST TO OUR MOST EMINENT GRAND MASTER CHRISTMAS 2018

We offer a toast to you, our Most Eminent Grand Master, at this Christmas season in the year of Our Lord 2018. On behalf of the Chivalric Masons of this Grand Encampment of the United States of America and of the Fraters in all countries where Knights Templars dwell and serve who bear allegiance to you, we raise our glasses in your honor as you begin your years as our servant leader.

We and our families celebrate with you and yours the nativity of the child Jesus, born to his Virgin Mother Mary in the humility of a stable, surrounded by sheep, oxen, and donkeys. We remember his bed of hay in a manger carved from the living rock of Bethlehem. We uncover ourselves as did the kings and shepherds as we worship the Savior of the world who is smiling in sleep. We ponder the knowledge that He is born to teach, heal, suffer, die, rise again from death, and finally ascend in glory to the Father. We echo the words of the prophet Isaiah (6:6-7)

"6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

To you, Grand Master, we raise our voices in the most profound expressions of our fraternal love. We lift our hearts in humble prayers for the prosperity and happiness of your house. We ardently invoke the Almighty's blessings upon your governance of our order, your oversight of our ministries, and your administration of our charities. With gratitude we look forward to the next three years of your leadership with certainty of your capabilities and vision as you have amply demonstrated to us these last years. We look forward to seeing you in our asylums, and we know you will represent our order before Masons and non-Masons with dignity, humor, and eloquence.

We pledge to you and your lady, Lisa, our faithful support throughout your term in office. May the light and peace of Christ perfect in your heart the eternal virtues of faith, hope, and love. May our Lord enable you to bring joy, healing, wisdom, and challenge wherever you journey. We toast you, Sir Knight Jeffrey Nelson, our Most Eminent Grand Master and wish for you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

A toast to you, Most Eminent Grand Master!

In His Name,

The Reverend Sir Knight Kenneth D. Fuller, P.G.C., Chairman
The Committee on Religious Activities

The Reverend Sir Knight Arthur F. Hebbeler, III, Grand Prelate
The Reverend Sir Knight Terry L. Hensley, P.G.C.
The Reverend Sir Knight Paul K. Reckamp, P.G.C.
The Reverend Sir Knight Paul D. Erickson, KCT
The Reverend Sir Knight Edward J. Craig, KCT



GRAND MASTER'S RESPONSE

Christmas 2018

To the Right Eminent Grand Prelate, the Committee on Religious Activities, and to all Sir Knights wheresoever dispersed:

Knightly Greetings!

A most sincere thank you from Lady Lisa and me to the Right Eminent Grand Prelate and the members of the Committee on Religious Activities for their heartfelt Toast this Christmas season in the year of Our Lord 2018.

The Toast offered invokes the Almighty's blessings on my behalf, and I am honored and privileged to work with each of you in the service of Templary. The Toast alludes to the concept of the servant leader which is especially applicable to Templary. The characteristic of the servant leader that perhaps most applies to the office of Grand Master is that of stewardship. The individual privileged to occupy the office of Grand Master is a steward and as such, with the guidance of the Almighty, can assist each member of our beloved Grand Encampment to realize his full potential, whatever it may be in His divine plan.

We pray that as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, each of you will find Peace this Christmas season. Let us also remember those less fortunate than ourselves, not only during this Christmas season, but throughout the year.

The officers of the of the Grand Encampment and their ladies join with my Lady Lisa and me in wishing each of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Courteously,

Jeffrey Norman Nelson, GCT

Grand Master



The foregoing toast to the Most Eminent Grand Master and his response thereto are transmitted to you with the request that you extend an invitation through the proper offices to all Sir Knights within your jurisdiction to join in the sentiments thus conveyed at some convenient hour, on or near the birthday of Christ, commonly called Christmas Day, December twenty-fifth, in the Year of Grace 2018.