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Christmas Response to the Sentiments of the Right Eminent Grand Commander

Right Eminent Grand Commander Robert J.F. Elsner:

The business of the “Christmas shopping season” will soon be upon us – actually, in many stores it began several weeks ago – and, more significantly, the Church will soon be in the holy and preparatory season of Advent, which serves to refocus our attention to the miracle of the Incarnation of Our Lord.

In the first chapter of the Gospel of St. John we are reminded of who Jesus Christ – the Incarnate Word – is. God the Son, eternally existent and without whom nothing was made that was made (vss. 1-3). We also are reminded of what He did – that “...true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.” (vs. 9 ESV) Jesus loved us so much that He entered into the sinful messiness and mire of our fallen world so that “..all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God... born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (vss. 12-13 ESV)

While the traditions of the Christmas season are wonderful and while the gifts that are given and received will warm hearts, those gifts will fade away. May the splendid grandeur of the magnificent and eternal gift that was given to us on that first Christmas be ever-imprinted on our hearts and minds and may our faith and gratitude to Almighty God ever increase.

Grand Commander, we salute you and wish you and your family a Merry Christmas.

Fraternally yours,

Charles A. Collins, Jr.+
Grand Prelate