

# GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

GENERAL ORDER NO. 3

PROCLAMATION – INSPIRATION – CELEBRATION

The Grand Commander's Easter Message - 2020



To: The Grand Line Officers, Paste Grand Commanders, Commandery Officers, and all Sir Knights of the Constituent Commanderies of the Grand Commandery of the State of New York

Christian Greetings, Sir Knights,

As the Global Coronavirus known as COVID-19 pandemic situation continues to evolve, our commitment to you, Sir Knights, remains unchanged: To bring you the inspired word of Jesus Christ, our savior, and to celebrate his death and his resurrection during Easter Day.

However, I hope that you are doing well during this period of "PAUSE/POSTPONE" and to contribute to keep the curve flat. Our way of life has changed, as Knights Templar, at least temporarily, but possible for a much longer of time, and likely in ways that we do not yet fully comprehend.

Because of all the above, Sir Knight Jeffrey N. Nelson, Most Eminent Grand Master of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar USA and the Grand Encampment officers had decided to CANCEL the three Grand Encampment sponsored 2020 Easter observances. He asked the Grand Commandery or Constituent Commandery still desires to have a local Easter observance that decision will be left to us. In another word, the 90<sup>th</sup> Annual East Cost Observance is CANCELLED.

Therefore, as the Grand Commander of Knights Templar of the State of New York, I had to make these following regrettable and difficult decisions, in order to protect all the Sir Knights against this pandemic:

1. All Conclaves are postponed until further notice
2. All Inspections are postponed until further notice
3. And any other activities and events related to Knights Templar are postponed until further notice

While at home, before we can celebrate Easter Day, we need to understand the fact that Good/Holy Friday has played a significant role in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. And, of course, Good Friday is a very important day for all Christians. On Good Friday, Christians remember that Jesus Christ, our savior, died for everyone and took our sins away. Although he found not guilty of any crimes, but, he was tied and nailed by the wrists and feet on a large wooden cross and left to die (crucified) by the Romans on the hill outside of Jerusalem (Golgotha). It is one of the reasons that the cross is used as a symbol of the Christian faith.

For us, Christians, the origin of Easter is the crucifixion and the resurrection of Jesus Christ about 2,000 years ago. We are all, also, aware that Easter Sunday/Day is the most important day of the year for Christians. It is when we celebrate the three days after Jesus Christ being killed, and rose from the dead, which is called "Resurrection" and forever defeated evil. All over the world, in most churches, candles are used to start the Easter Sunday Midnight celebrations. Candles help Christians to remember that Jesus Christ, our savior, is the light of the world and that when He rose to life on Easter Sunday He removed the darkness of evil. On Easter Day, most of churches are also filled with flowers. These represent new life.

Every year, the Pope holds a very large Mass service in Saint Peter's Square in the Vatican City, in Italy. From all over the world, thousand of people attend this service on Easter Day. Many Christians also attend Sunrise services held early in the morning to celebrate the start of Easter Day.

This year, unfortunately, we will have to do all these at home. The Churches are closed and some are holding services online. In my opinion, we don't have to gather together in a house of worship, in order to worship Jesus Christ. We can do it at home and in our heart. We should not let this pandemic divorces us from our faith.

Let us all pray together, in order to come out of this pandemic well. Please, I urge you all to stay home, be patient, and stay safe.

The Officers of the Grand Commandery and their ladies join with my lady, Joan, and I in wishing you all and your families a Joyful and blessed Easter. God bless.

Courteously and Fraternally,

Sir Knight Yves Etienne, KCT  
Right Eminent Grand Commander