

Grand Encampment of Knights Templar



THE APARTMENTS OF THE GRAND PRELATE

and

THE RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Year of Our Lord 2024 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 2024

Most Eminent Grand Master as we enter the season where it is righteous and good to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we, your Sir Knights, gather and offer a toast to you in your honor.

In this Holiest of times, as we go outside and brave the cold, and the hustle and bustle of crowds to bring home that prized gift, a representation of the presents brought to our Savior by the wise men. Our hearts and minds turn towards the precious babe lying in a manger and we realize, even if only for a little while the world is a kinder, gentler place. It is only then that we remember the Angel saying to the shepherds “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11 ESV

And so, as you travel with a servant’s heart across this great country of ours, and to other parts outside its borders where Grand Commanderies reside under the jurisdiction and banner of the Grand Encampment we, your Sir Knights, ask our Lord in prayer that He would watch over you and keep you well protected and safe. And, on those rare occasions, when your Lady Kim travels with you, we ask those same blessing upon her, for we know what great comfort it is when your wife and companion is traveling with you.

And now it is with a shout of joy that we raise our glasses and say thank you, for we are well served.

A Prayer and toast to you Most Eminent Grand Master!

In Jesus’ Holy Name,

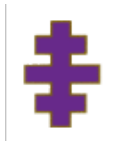
The Reverend Sir Knight Paul D. Erickson, KGC, Chairman
The Committee on Religious Activities

The Reverend Sir Knight Robert J.F. Elsner, KGC

The Reverend Sir Knight Terry L. Plemons, KGC



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 2024.



GRAND MASTER'S RESPONSE

CHRISTMAS 2024

To the Right Eminent Grand Prelates, the members of the Committee on Religious Activities, and to all Knights wheresoever dispersed:

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I tender to you all my profound thanks and appreciation for your recognition as a “Servant Leader” within our humble Order; filled with likeminded, and inspiring men.

As Knights Templar assemble this season for their annual Christmas Observance, paying homage to Emmanuel, and once again re-live the Christmas Story – let me encourage each of you to remember your vows of Christian Knighthood and rededicate yourselves to the love that manifests itself in the Word of GOD. May this season be one of joy and happiness for you and your family.

Let us, as true Soldiers of the Cross, strive to profit by the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of that divine Master, and remain His faithful soldiers unto death. Seeking strength to continue that struggle let us now offer this prayer of grace.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, remember us with pity, we beseech thee, and blot out the multitude of our transgressions, for thy beloved son's sake. And may the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

FATHER in heaven command thy blessing to rest upon all true Knights of the Temple wherever dispersed; bestow upon them a spirit of Truth, Justice, Courage, Constancy, Faith, and Humility, and make of them valiant defenders of thy holy religion. Teach them to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and bind up the wounds of the afflicted, for Jesus' sake. Amen!

The officers of the Grand Encampment and their families join with Lady Kim and me in wishing each of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a most fruitful New Year.

Courteously,

⚔️ *David J. Kussman*

David J. Kussman, GCT

Grand Master