

Grand Encampment of Knights Templar OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



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

Year of our Lord 2011

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

An award-winning song which captured my imagination as a youth, as it did for many others when it was written in 1920, was "Follow the Gleam". The authors, Sallie Hume Douglas and Helen Hill had been fascinated by tales of the Holy Grail, and used this legend to inspire others.

"To knights in the days of old, Keeping watch on the mountain height,
Came a vision of Holy Grail And a voice through the waiting night ...
And we who would serve the King, And loyally Him obey,
In the consecrate silence know, That the challenge still holds today:
'Follow, follow, follow the Gleam, Banners unfurled o'er all the world; ...
Follow, follow, follow the Gleam Of the Light that shall bring the dawn'."

Yes, as the Wise Men so long ago followed that Gleam, that new star in the constellation of the heavens, to behold and fall down to worship the baby, born in a stable and laid in a manger, who would become King of Kings and Lord of Lords, then, now and forevermore - so must we follow that "Gleam of the Light that shall bring the dawn" of a new day, a new era of peace and goodness for all who live on this earth. Catch the vision of a new world bathed in the Light of Christ and sheltered by the Love of God.

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord this Christmas season, Grand Master, we toast you and Lady Elizabeth for your untiring dedication and leadership of our great Order, amidst all these troubling times of discontent, and wish you a Blessed Christmas and the best of health and happiness for this coming year of 2012.

In His name,

The Committee on Religious Activities
Rev. Dickie W. Johnson, Chairman

(This toast was prepared by Reverend and Sir Knight William D. Hartman, R.E. Grand Prelate)