

# Grand Encampment of Knights Templar



## THE APARTMENTS OF THE GRAND PRELATE

*and*

## THE RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Year of Our Lord 2020 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 2020

We propose this toast to you, Sir Knight Jeffrey N. Nelson, our Most Eminent Grand Master and to your beloved partner and helpmate, Lisa, at this most unusual and stressful Christmastide, applauding your dedicated leadership of our Order through the travails and perils of these most recent months.

During this Christmas season our festivities may be more circumscribed, and our hilarity modified, but our spiritual reflections are all the more heightened by the needs of neighbors, the cries of the stranger, the entreaties of the ill, and the loneliness of the lost. We think of the baby born in a manger, surrounded by ox and ass and ministered to by Mary, the mother who delivered him and Joseph who would raise him. We meditate upon their escape from Herod's men of might and upon their exile as strangers in a strange land, until the news of a death would be good news of a return. We think of their sustenance by the gifts of strangers from the East and of the angelic tales of heavenly songs reported by shepherds in rags redolent of field and flock. With these stories of Jesus' birth on our hearts, we, as Knights Templar, renew our vows to welcome the poor and weary pilgrim, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and bind up the wounds of the afflicted.

Grand Master, we are aware that this; the ultimate year of your term, has been a year of trial and testing. Plans we made together have been set aside. We have been scattered and isolated in many of our jurisdictions and have yet no set time to join in glad reunion. Indeed, this very Christmas Libation Service will be virtual for many of us. We know that you, dear Sir Knight Jeffrey, had hopes and goals that you will not achieve. Yet by your leadership, our unity is maintained. By your example, our hearts are filled with resolve and hope that we will soon be able to enlist more fratres in our holy and charitable quest. By your words, we have been reassured and empowered to continue working for the ministries and charities of our order. By your patience, energy, wisdom, creativity, and love for all Masons, wheresoever dispersed, you have been an outstanding example of servant leadership.

To you, Grand Master, we raise our cups and unite our voices in fraternal love and admiration. We pledge to you and Lady Lisa our unwavering support for the remainder of your service as our earthly head and our friendship and honor for all the years that may follow. As you face the challenges and the perils of the months ahead, may you be led by the example of the Immaculate Jesus who died that we might live. We toast you and Lady Lisa and wish you a Merry Christmas and blessed, healthy, and prosperous 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 E. Jeffrey Craig, KCT