

The Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Texas
Office of the Grand Commander
Amarillo, Texas
November 30, 2020

GENERAL ORDER NO. 6, SERIES 2020-2021

Subject: Christmas Message (December 25th, 2020)

To: The Grand Officers, Past Grand Commanders, Officers and Members of the Constituent Commanderies of Texas.

Merry Christmas Sir Knights,

I hope that everyone enjoys a great Christmas filled with family, friends and loved ones, but let's also do our best to keep our families and friends as safe as possible during these difficult times. Let us make new memories so our children will remember them and pass them on to future generations, despite this adversity that I pray we will soon overcome.

Our parents, grandparents and great grandparents all had hard times to deal with, and yet they did their best to make Christmas the most special holiday of the year. Christmas will remain the same despite whatever adversities we must deal with. We will gather together around the Christmas tree with family, friends and loved ones as we have done in the past, but with some extra prayers on our lips. We will enjoy all of the Christmas traditions, gifts under the tree, the children getting up early to open presents, singing Christmas songs, enjoying time with family and loved ones, and treasuring the smiles on everyone's faces.

On Christmas day we will go to church and thank God for all of his blessings, and pray for our country and the world to be healed. We celebrate the birth of Christ in many ways, but it is important that we remember his birth and why Christ was born.

The Gospel of Matthew (1:22-23) cites the prophecy of the sign of Immanuel from Isaiah, using a Greek translation rather than the original Hebrew. "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

The Bible tells us that the birth of Jesus was unlike all other births, in that Jesus existed before birth... He was conceived by God and became man, not to provide us with a sweet story to tell children each winter, or even as a theme for our greatest musical compositions, but in order to grow to maturity, and then die for our sins as a means of our salvation.

Jesus was born to die, and in doing so became our Savior by sacrificing Himself so that our sins may be forgiven. We could have received no greater gift than that which God has bestowed upon us in the birth of the immaculate Jesus, who died that we might live.

From the movie *The Bishop's Wife*

I want to tell you the story of an empty stocking.

Once upon a midnight clear, there was a child's cry, a blazing star hung over a stable, and wise men came with birthday gifts. We haven't forgotten that night down the centuries. We celebrate it with stars on Christmas trees, with the sound of bells, and with gifts.

But especially with gifts. You give me a book; I give you a tie. Aunt Martha has always wanted an orange squeezer and Uncle Henry can do with a new pipe. For we forget nobody, adult or child. All the stockings are filled, all that is, except one. And we have even forgotten to hang it up. The stocking for the child born in a manger. It's his birthday we're celebrating. Don't let us ever forget that.

Let us ask ourselves what He would wish for all. And then, let each put in his share, loving kindness, warm hearts, and a stretched out hand of tolerance. All the shining gifts that make peace on earth.

A Christmas Prayer

God, our Creator, we offer this humble prayer on Christmas Day. We come to worship with a song of thanks in our hearts—a song of redemption, a song of hope and renewal. We pray for joy in our hearts, hope in our God, love to forgive, and peace upon the earth. We ask for the salvation of all our family members and friends, and we pray your blessings on all people.

May there be bread for the hungry, love for the unloved, healing for the sick, protection for our children, and wisdom for our youth and our adults. We pray for the forgiveness of sinners and abundant life in Christ.

Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your love and power, and compel us to treat others as we wish to be treated, as you have taught us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Merry Christmas Sir Knights, and may the Lord bless you and keep you safe for all time.

This message was prepared by Sir Knight Alberto Urbina, Eminent Grand Prelate.

This General Order is to be read aloud at the next Stated Conclave following its receipt, and the action noted by the Recorder in the minutes with a copy attached thereto.

In the Name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and God's Greatest Gift,

Gary H. Freedman

Gary H. Freedman
Grand Commander

Attest:

Jerry N. Kirby

Jerry N. Kirby
Grand Recorder

