Christmas Message from the Eminent Grand Prelate

Dear Sir Knights,

The message that I want to share with you; begins with the reading of Scripture from the Book of St. Matthew, Chapter 1, Verse 21: "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins."

I was told about Jesus' birth at an early age and that we celebrate HIS birthday on December 25th every year. I was also told that Jesus was the Son of God, who lived in Heaven, and that Jesus was born of a woman who lived on Earth. That last sentence needs a lot more clarification to a young child as he or she grows up.

Jesus' reason for coming to Earth was to save us from our sins and to give to the people a promise of eternal life and happiness and to live with HIM in Heaven. This promise was made to those who have trust and faith in HIM and to follow HIS teachings.

Christmas has always been a happy and joyous time for me and should be for all Christians. Christmas is the time we should celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We as Christians accepted him as our Lord and Savior and for this we shall have Eternal life and happiness; if we follow HIS teachings.

We give birthday presents to those who are near and dear to us. We celebrate Jesus birthday by giving gifts to people we know and love. Children learn from their parents by their words, deeds and actions; even if their behavior, sometimes, is not what they want their children to do or how to act. Children love and want to be like their parents. Without explanation, do they understand that some of the things we say and do are not meant to be directed as learning tools for them? Is this an example of "Do as I say not as I do"? Without a full explanation, do our children believe Christmas is the time of year for them to receive gifts?

I will now read from the Gospel of St. John, Chapter 3, Verses 16 and 17:

- 16. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
- 17. "For God sent <u>not</u> his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

God gave the greatest gift to the world, for their salvation, the life of his only child.

I have given much thought, in the past few years, on the birth of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. Jesus' birth has many consequences for those who believe in HIM as the Son of God and our Lord and Savior. The most important results of Christ birth is the beginning of the Christian religion and through it we are saved by the Grace of God and by putting our Faith and Trust in Jesus Christ.

The path we are to travel, as a Christian, is not an easy path to follow and we must renew our efforts every day to live a better Christian life; because the reward that awaits us; is eternal life and happiness with our loving God and his blessed son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. This, I believe, is the greatest Christmas present we could ever receive.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Yours in Faith,

Charles "Steve" Wolfe

Eminent Grand Prelate

Grand Commandery of Texas