

Grand Encampment Knights Templars, United States of America

OFFICE OF THE COMMITTEE ON
CHRISTMAS OBSERVANCE
Raleigh, North Carolina

General Orders No. 2

Series 1921-1922

To all Knights Templars within the jurisdiction of this Grand Commandery:

The following sentiment has been prepared for the coming Christmas observance:

To our Most Eminent Grand Master, Joseph Kyle Orr:

Three hundred and fifty thousand Knights Templar sincerely wish

That the spirit of the Templar Christmas celebration might start a nation-wide program, for a great constructive work, worthy of the Order and easily within its financial ability.

The Grand Master sends the following response:

Sir Knights:

In sending this, my last official Christmas Greeting, I am moved to depart from the long established privilege of making it a preachment, and instead shall follow a suggestion that came in one of the answers to the questionnaire on the future of the Templars' Christmas Observance.

"In place of well rounded rhetoric, let
Us have some practical suggestion for
A nation-wide constructive work, then
Let's go do it."

Such was the inspiring message from a Past Grand Commander of Michigan
What shall we undertake? Who will find the answer?

An Order remotely related to Masonry has set a shining example—a million dollars a year will go to the founding and support of hospitals for the rebuilding of crippled children. A Boston Doctor visiting the Scottish Rite hospital in Atlanta said, "The age of miracles is not over."

At our present rate of growth, the Order of Knights Templar will in a few years have a million members in the United States. A small tax upon this membership would give a million a year. This would be equivalent to an Endowment Fund of Twenty Million Dollars. What a power for good? Shall we use it and in what way?

Oh for the zeal of the knights of old
In their fruitless quest of the Holy Grail,
There's a place to-day for heads of gold
In a sacred quest that should not fail.

The most welcome message that can come to the Grand Master between now and the expiration of his official term will be a practical answer to our toast. Suggestions will be gladly received from any Knight Templar.

Then let's meet in New Orleans in April, and find a way to make the dream come true.

And now, Sir Knights, adieu. It would have been a great privilege to have taken each of you by the hand, but I just couldn't get all the way round.

This is a day of joy, but forget not those in sorrow. May we give to them the message of West Virginia's patriot poet, Gill Robb Wilson. After he had carried his mortally wounded brother off the field of battle, he wrote:

"No sun e'er sets but rises
To make a joyous morn,
And out of all life's darkness
God's after-glow is born."

Courteously yours,

JOSEPH KYLE ORR,
Grand Master.

Will you join in these sentiments Monday, December 26th, 1921, (preferably at noon, Eastern Standard Time, equivalent to 5 P. M. Greenwich), the hour of service is left optional with each of the fifteen hundred constituent commanderies, and you will extend the invitation to your command, as well as all true Templars and their friends wheresoever dispersed, on land or sea.

Courteously and fraternally yours,

ALEXANDER B. ANDREWS, P.G.C.,
Committee on Christmas Observance.

Address of the Grand Master:

JOSEPH KYLE ORR, Atlanta, Ga.

The committee requests all true Templars and their friends, wheresoever dispersed, on land or sea, to join in the sentiments on Monday, December the 26th, at noon, Eastern Standard Time.

It will be gratifying to the Grand Commander to have the Sir Knights of this jurisdiction, assembled in their asylums, their homes, or wherever they may be, join in the sentiment prepared by the committee, and in wishing the Grand Master a joyous and happy Christmas as a mark of their respect and love for the Grand Master.

Over nineteen centuries ago the Star of Bethlehem was anxiously watched and was the hope of the world. In significance that Star shines no less brightly and is no less the hope of the world today.

Civilization is not on trial, as it were, although civilization may have its trials, and some awful to endure, but I have an abiding faith that deep down underneath this apparent turbulence of society there is a serenity of things which points that humanity can be trusted, and with God's help is onward and upward.

We join with our Most Eminent Grand Master in what he terms a practical Christmas toast. Let us be builders, and we pledge our support and best endeavors to aid him in his laudable ambitions of what he plans and believes we should accomplish well worthy of an order of Christian Knighthood. So as Knights Templars let us be builders, let us be practical, and for the ideal may we draw inspiration and solace in Kipling's lines—"When Earth's Last Picture is Painted":

"And only the Master shall praise us, and only the Master shall blame;
And no one shall work for money, and no one shall work for fame,
But each for the joy of the working, and each, in his separate star,
Shall draw the Thing as he sees It for the God of Things as They are."

This Order will be borne upon the notice of the Stated Conclave next preceding December 25, A.D. 1921, A.O. 803, and be read at the head of each Commandery at said Conclave.

Witness my hand and the seal of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templars, and the Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, this first day of December, A.D. 1921, A.O. 803.

HENRY C. DEXTER,
Grand Commander.

Attest:

B. W. ROWELL,
Grand Recorder.