

Grand Prior's Newsletter



Easter 2020



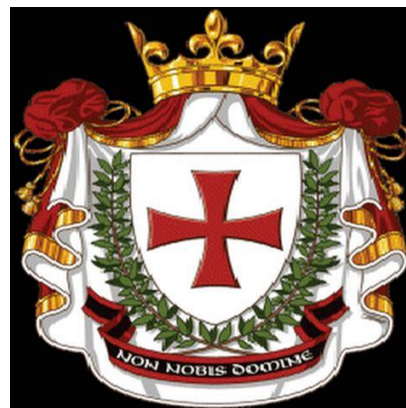
Easter Greetings were sent from our International Grand Master, David Appleby GCTJ and International Grand Commander, George MacLean GCTJ . . .

Brothers and Sisters,

As we near the end of Lent, and approach Easter Sunday, our World continues to struggle with the COVID-19 pandemic. And we face other challenges, to name a few: inequality and bias, lack of water in many nations, continued wars with increased refugees and natural disasters. But, amidst this strife, we have hope and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ for a better life, and with our prayers through this to God the Father, we will be delivered from this strife. Isn't it great though, that even in these most difficult of times, we have so much to be thankful for, again as blessing from God. We still must rejoice now and at all times of the year to show our Father how thankful we are for his Son, and all our other spiritual and material blessings, and the fact that we will overcome all adversity through Him. For all that we have, for all that we are, and for all we can be, we give Him the glory, now and forever.

INTERNATIONALLY

The international business meeting that was scheduled for Helsinki, Finland in April was cancelled to protect our health. We all owe a hearty "thank-you" to H.E. the Reverend Pertti Ruotsalo and the team that worked with him to arrange and then cancel this meeting on such very short notice.





Sofia, Bulgaria is a city of contrasts and delights.

The next international meeting will be in Sofia Bulgari from the 7th to 10th of October 2020. We were there in 2016 and it is a fascinating city and the hotel and hospitality of their Grand Priory is superb. They are also hosting a Conference on the 6th, entitled, *OSMTH - Past, Present, and Future*. If you are interested in attending, please let me know

From our Religious Protector,
Archbishop Nourhan Manougian,
the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem,
comes a prayer for this time . . .



A Healing Prayer by St. Nersess the Graceful

We beseech You Lord in these times of trial and tribulation. when the entire world is shaken by the devastating pandemic, to pour out upon us your healing grace so that from the depths of our souls we may be healed, strengthened and purified. You, Son of God and Son of humanity, died on the cross for our salvation. Through your suffering, you showed us how trial and affliction might bring us closer to You. You are our rock and refuge. our comfort and hope. our joy and salvation. You healed people with sickness and affliction through Your loving care and compassion. Now we ask you, Lord. to dispel the pain and heal the sickness of your children all around the world and to grant to all perfect health and protection under the sign of your all-conquering Holy Cross. Give us your peace and strengthen our faith in you. Lord, so that we can overcome our fears and doubts, when anxiety becomes the order of the day. Bless all those who have put themselves in harm's way in service to us. Hold in your loving embrace those who have perished and grant peace to their loved ones. In the midst of the uncertainty we echo in faith the words of King David, "God is our refuge and strength. an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging" (Psalm 46: 1-3). Trusting in Your infinite love and compassion we exalt and praise Your Holy Name with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages. AMEN

NATIONALLY

Priory of SIMON-PETER . . .

Like the rest of the world, Simon-Peter has had to suspend the quarterly lasagna lunch that they prepare and serve to the homeless ladies at Cornerstone and the weekly delivery of donated food stuffs from Costco until the pandemic is under control.



The Simon-Peter Convent and Investiture has also been postponed until some time in September.

There is good news in that the Grand Commander has placed approval of Canada's proposal to host the 2022 GMC/GCG in Ottawa as one of the five urgent matters that could not be deferred until the next International meeting. He has forwarded, to quote, ". . . the excellent presentation . . ." to all the Grand Priors and there will be on-line voting within the next week.

That will be the official go-ahead . . . so the timing really works for us to get working on all their great ideas!

Dame Nicolle has volunteered to put on a presentation of the screen show and plans once we are out of isolation and back to having meetings.

Priory of the ASCENSION of OUR LORD . . .

The Priory that can always be relied upon for a busy volunteering and social life has joined the rest of the nation in cancelled events and hopeful dates: their AGM and Dinner is still being planned for the 17th of June.



Hopefully, we will all be out and about by then!

Priory of ST JAMES . . .



One of the very active Toronto Templars is Sir Vince Nigro. Among his many activities is as Content Director of the magazine *Luso Life*. The Winter 2019 edition had a seven page article entitled "A Templar Investiture" that was beautifully illustrated and explained, ". . . some of the symbols, rituals and traditions of this medieval order.

Edmonton Commandery

The Edmonton Commandery is nearing the coveted move from Commandery to Priory as the number of postulants grows. It takes years and a great deal of committed work by our members to make this transition and perhaps one of the good things to come out of the delays caused by coronavirus, will be the extra time to work on getting the last member or two!



Halifax Preceptory

Halifax continues to look for those interested in becoming Templars: if you know anyone in the area . . . military, academic spring to mind . . . do introduce them to Dame Anne and Sir Alan. We really need to get things going on both coasts and this is an ideal place to start with two talented Templars already in place.

**MAY the BLESSINGS of EASTER fill your lives and your hearts . . .
He lives, as that wonderful old hymn reminds us, HE LIVES!**

My prayer is that this finds you in good health and that you and your family are safe and secure during this world-stopping coronavirus season.

It is such a different world from the time of my last writing.

All our meetings: local, national or international are now being conducted on-line and while workable, there is no substitute for being together.

The important thing is to make this time work for us. For those who are still working on the front lines, my deepest gratitude. Imagine if the health care workers, the truckers, the grocery workers, the garbage collectors, the farmers and food producers, the police and fire departments and so many more, were unavailable! They really are our lifelines.

For those of us staying at home as our bit to defeat the corona viruses, look at this time as a unique period when we can improve our own lives and the lives of those around us.

There is the luxury of time for prayer and contemplation. And time for the chores that never got done (my kitchen just had its first paint job in so many years). There is the book you wanted to read or write; the piece of music you can now play; and I trust your garden is getting in the best shape it has been in years!

We are in this together and I know this time has been particularly hard for those who regularly set time aside to cook and deliver food to the hungry and dispossessed, who collect and deliver skates, who organize fund raisers and who are unable to be doing so much that makes our world a better place. But we will be back serving soon.

**In the meantime it is important to continue to reach out:
to family and friends and those we cannot see.**

Everyone needs that.

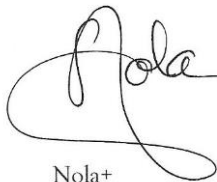
**Make a phone call
Explore ZOOM**

Take the time to write a personal note telling someone how much they mean to you; whether an old friend or your Granny. Put it in the post box. It is a gift that will long be cherished and is guaranteed to bring a smile to the lucky recipient.

We are an Order founded on our commitment to our God and the protection of the weak and the vulnerable: the pilgrims. We are still at work on the Templar Pilgrim's Medal . . . my personal project for this time apart.

And PRAY . . . for our world, our Order and all of God's children in these challenging times.

**God bless
nnDnn**



Nola+
GP Canada

P.S. With all our places of worship closed, I am doing a short video each week to send to my parishioners, friends and any Templars that would like to share *Thoughts on a Sunday Morning* . . . Just send your e-mail address to DameTemplar@gmail.com



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