

# New York Supplement

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Yves Etienne  
Grand Commander

Greetings Sir Knights,

Welcome to the New Year—2021. Will it be brighter? In my opinion, yes. A new year is the beginning of a fresh start. As you are aware by now, the new year provides us the chance to celebrate the arrival of the new vaccines. Meanwhile, I urge you all to continue to follow the authorities' guidelines. As the COVID-19 Pandemic continues, we welcome the good news concerning the vaccines. The vaccine promises to slow down the Pandemic.

February is the month we celebrate "Mardi Gras." Mardi Gras is French for "Fat Tuesday"—also known as "Shrove Tuesday." The day is the closing stage of the Carnival season, which begins on or after the Christian Feast of the Epiphany on January 6. It is also the day before Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of the traditional Christian season of Lent—that will take us to Easter. During Lent, many Christians fast and the name "Fat Tuesday" refers to the last day of eating richer foods before the leaner days of Lent begin.

In the United States, Mardi Gras is well known and celebrated every year in many cities, mainly in New Orleans. Many other countries in Europe, South America and the Caribbean celebrate this event with sophisticated parades filling the streets. This year, the Carnival is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, February 16. However, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, there will not be any parades on that specific date.

This past year, most of the local Commanderies were unable to hold traditional Christmas Toasts to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ due to state restrictions on gatherings. Therefore, we decided to hold a Grand Commandery Christmas Toast. The event was well attended. Prior to this decision, this event was basically scheduled as one of the Schools of Instruction held on Tuesday, December 15 and organized by Sir Knights David Barkstedt and Conrad Johnson, with their committee members. Of course, the presenter was Sir Knight and Reverend Charles M. Roberts. The event grew from a School of Instruction to the Grand Commandery Christmas Toast presented by the Grand Line Officers. The virtual aspect of the event was supervised by Sir Knight Aram Adishian. Several Grand Commanders and guests from other states were present. We wish to thank everyone for adding to this memorable event.

We soon hope to see each other in-person. Meanwhile, I am asking you all to stay safe and continue to be patient. According to the dictionary's definition: patience is the capacity, habit, or fact of being patient: bearing pains or trials calmly or without complaint.

Thank you very much for your continued support. God bless Knights Templar, God bless America, and God bless you all.

Courteously and fraternally,  
Sir Knight Yves Etienne, R.E.G.C.

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## Grand Prelate's Corner

We welcome the month of February—it being in the midst of the winter season for us in the Northeast and NY State. How we keep warm is on our minds. Well I am warm because of God's written word and promise to me and all of us.

Sir Knights, every new month is like a fresh piece of paper and only you decide what will be written on it. My thought on my paper is "God is my strength and power; and He makes my way perfect." (*II Samuel 22:33*) Why this quote, you ask? Well, let me say this, Valentine's Day falls on the 14<sup>th</sup> of this month. Most of us will forget this romantic day until it is upon us a week, a few days before, or even on the 14<sup>th</sup>—remembering just in time to send candy, roses and cards filled with human expressions of love and devotion to our true loves.

However, the deepest expression of love is more than candy, roses, and cards; it is remembering what Jesus did for us by presenting himself as a living sacrifice for our salvation. "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (*John 3:16*). Through that one act, God in Christ created for each of us a new way to live. Therefore, that act alone illustrates God's ultimate strength and power over death and His ability to make me perfect and right before himself, to dine and live forever.

So with that and this prayer: "Lord I love you, I am giving you my heart; I am submitting to you, I am yielding to you; here is my body as a living sacrifice. Make me more loving. Make me more forgiving. Make me kinder. Make me a better witness for you. In Jesus name I pray. Amen," may we experience that strength, power and perfect way of Love!

Oh by the way, Happy Valentine's Day to all.