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**California Supplement
 Grand Commander's Message
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Matthew 7:7 “Ask, and it shall be given you; Seek, and ye shall find; Knock, and it shall be opened unto you”

Greetings Sir Knights and Ladies,

Time really flies, my year as Grand Commander is almost at the homestretch, close to the finish line. But up until this time have not seen the light at the end of the tunnel. We were kept in the dark all year waiting for the time to be out and do what we used to do, attending stated conclaves, meeting face-to-face with the sir knights, the fellowship, the parking lot chat after the meeting. These fun things were taken away from us as the whole year has been very challenging, unprecedented. This is a year we pray will never happen again.

March is the month when the Grand Officers of the Grand York Rite Bodies convene to start planning for the Annual Grand Sessions held in May of every year. This year, because of COVID-19, the Conference will be done virtually through your computer, cell phone or iPad and in the comfort of your favorite spot in your own home. The Conference for the Grand Commandery Officers is scheduled earlier than the traditional scheduled date, since virtual anyway. By the time of writing this message, the meeting has not happened yet, but I can assure the sir knights that every item in the agenda will be looked at carefully and will be completed as planned. The Grand Officers of the three bodies, the Grand Chapter, the Grand Council and the Grand Commandery will be ready to shake off all the not-so-good things that happened in the past year.

New Year in March?? Traditionally New Year is celebrated on the first day of the first month of the year, right? Well, in the early Roman Calendar, March (or Martius) was the first month, as March brought the first day of spring with the Vernal Equinox, it was the start of the “New Beginnings”. We used to make our personal resolutions or goals for the new year, planning for a better year. I considered the month of March as the new year for the Grand York Rite Bodies because that is when planning for a better year begins.

The Grand Officers of the three bodies, the Grand Chapter, the Grand Council and Grand Commandery traditionally meet in March, where planning for the future Grand Sessions take place. The place, date, program of events, annual banquets, nominations for awards and presenting resolutions takes place in March. When submitting resolutions, our Constitution and By-Laws requires 60 days and should be on the proper forms to be received and considered for ratifications during the Grand Sessions. Therefore, it is important that if any Commanderies have resolutions and nominations for awards they should be submitted as early as possible.

Sir Knights, I read a poem from the “Messages of Hope Blog” which I like, although a bit old but still want to share and hope you will like it too. The title is “2020” and it goes like this:

2020 hasn't been like what we expected; but we've found ways to stay connected. Hug your kids and enjoy the outdoors; worry less about the very small chores. Things will get better because they usually do; enjoy what you love and learn something new. Don't forget to pray and always be kind; try to stay positive and learn to unwind. The story has been written, good wins in the end; prayers for all my family and friends.
 -Craig Alter, Mercy Health Marketing Manager.

In Unity,
Cirilo Marquez
 Grand Commander

“Stay home, Save lives”