

New York Supplement

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Yves Etienne
Grand Commander

Greetings Sir Knights,

Hope you had a restful and productive summer. As I mentioned in my previous message: The Delta variant is here and it is making most of us very nervous. Please, get vaccinated to be protected against this deadly virus.

During our last virtual School of Instruction and Seminar on Tuesday, July 20, I had the honor and privilege to be your final presenter. The Sword Manual was the topic for the evening. Throughout the presentation I explained: The parts of the Sword, How to hold the Sword, During where and where the Sword Manual is performed—the opening of a Conclave, parade, Honor Guard, drill, inspection, Orders. If you did not have a chance to attend any one of the presentations, you may request a recorded copy of the presentation from SK David Barksted, or contact me. I can come to your Commandery and present the Sword Manual in person. I want to thank the team that organized these virtual Schools of Instruction and Seminars. Although, we were unable to meet in person due to the virus, we met virtually during the entire year and continued our work.

As you are aware, I end my tenure as Grand Commander on Saturday, September 18, 2021, during our 207th Annual Conclave—which will be held in a hybrid format. Today, I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know how much I have enjoyed spending time with all Sir Knights, and that you have played a huge and significant part in our journey. I want to thank our Editor, Sir Knight David J. Passalugo, and the Grand Line Officers. It has been such a pleasure to lead the Grand Commandery during this unpredicted time.. I could not have asked for a better team than that. Each one of you has played a significant and collaborative role, small or big. This has been such a valuable learning experience. I am sure with SK Dennis S. Davis, our incoming Grand Commander, you are destined to continue doing great work for our beloved Grand Commandery. I am confident that Sir Knight Dennis will lead us well.

It has been absolutely amazing to serve as your Grand Commander. I hope to see you in September. Keep the FAITH. God bless Knights Templar, God bless you all, and God bless America. Please stay in touch.

Courteously and Fraternally,

Sir Knight Yves Etienne, R.E.G.C.

Grand Prelate's Corner

"Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name."(Psalms 29:2)

For any human being to think that they could capture the glory of God in a single artistic moment is delusional at best and vain at worst. To squeeze what is infinite into what is finite is vastly more impossible than trying to cram the entire body of fully-developed elephant into a thimble.

Glory is not a thing, like a shoe, a steak, a candle, or a house. Those are particular physical items that could be so carefully described with words that you would immediately have an accurate picture in your mind of what is being talked about. Glory isn't like that. No single drawing, painting, photograph, or verbal description could ever capture glory. Glory isn't so much a thing as it is a description of a thing. Glory isn't a part of God; it's all that God is. Every aspect of who God is and every part of what God does is glorious. Not only is he glorious in every way, but his very glory is glorious! God's glory is the result of his nature and acts. He is glorious in his character, for there is such a store of everything that is holy, and good, and lovely in God, that he must be glorious.

The actions which flow from his character are also glorious; but while he intends that they should manifest to his creatures his goodness, and mercy, and justice, he is equally concerned that the glory associated with them should be given only to himself. Then how careful ought we to walk humbly before the Lord. The moment we glorify ourselves, since there is room for one glory only in the universe, we set ourselves up as rivals to the Most High. Shall the insect of an hour glorify itself against the sun which warmed it into life? Shall the potsherd exalt itself above the man who fashioned it upon the wheel? Shall the dust of the desert strive with the whirlwind? Or the drops of the ocean struggle with the tempest?

Yet it is, perhaps, one of the hardest struggles of the Christian life to learn this sentence—"Not unto us, not unto us, but unto thy name be glory." It is a lesson which God is ever teaching us, and teaching us sometimes by most painful discipline. Let every Knight begin to boast, "I can do all things," without adding "through Christ which strengthens me," and before long he will have to groan, "I can do nothing," and bemoan himself in the dust.

When we do anything for the Lord, and he is pleased to accept of our doings, let us lay our crown at his feet, and exclaim, "Not I, but the grace of God which was with me, has accomplished this!"