

**October 2022 - Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of the District of Columbia
SK Douglas N. Cohen - Grand Commander SK Carter Lee Diggs Jr. - Editor**

Sir Knights... Summer is gone, and we are well into fall, along with cooler weather. I would like to touch on a couple of things.

As I write this, we are in the middle of a huge hurricane (or windstorm) making its way up the east coast. we tend to attribute these kinds of storms as "the Wrath of GOD", but that really is not what they are. It is a reasonably well understood and regular phenomenon, and we suffer far less from its destructive process than in any other time in history.

This is by no means meant to minimize the devastation nor destruction. what we need to keep in mind is that this is the time remember our values and to put them to work. There will be far too much pain and loss, and people will need our prayers as well as our physical and financial help. Do what you can, when and where you can, as far as the length of your "cable tow".

On a less catastrophic and less serious note, I wish to call to your attention to the celebration of Halloween. It is now a largely commercial event and a fun time for children, "trick or treat", dress up and parties. It was not always so. We, for the most part, have forgotten the origins and meaning of this day.

It actually derives from the celebration of a solemn and serious Catholic religious observance of "All Hallow's Eve" followed by "All Saints' Day" where vigils were kept, and you went to church and prayed. But even that was taken from an even earlier Pagan holiday, wherein ancient Britons, and others, for hundreds of years, venerated their sun god, feasting on the harvest with fruits and nuts, with large bonfires and celebrations in the dance. The macabre aspects of the holiday came from the simultaneous acknowledgement of their harvests' blessings ,and their "Lord of Death", Samhain; pronounced Sauwen (after who the observance is named) whom they believed gathered up the souls of the past year's dead.

It would seem that what has evolved into our modern-day commercial is more of a cultural blend of the fall harvest and a combination of celebrations of plenty, going back to as far as the Roman's' celebration of their Goddess Pomona, who brought forth the fruits and berries.

So, as you enjoy the costumes, the kids knocking on the doors, the tricks and the treats, and the many parties and celebrations of the season, just be mindful of where and how all this came about. and be safe out there!!

Fraternally, zealously and with all Knightly courtesy,

SK D. N. Cohen - REGC 2022 - 2023

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