



The Sovereign Great Priory of Canada
of the
**United Religious and Military Orders of St. John of Jerusalem,
Palestine, Rhodes and Malta and of the Temple**

Geoffrey C. Perry, G.C.T.
Most Eminent Supreme Grand Master 2022 - 2024
927 Isabelle Place, Windsor, ON N8S 3B1

To All Sir Knights of the Sovereign Great Priory of Canada

I am sure you are all aware of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. It is a tragic moment in our lives. Queen Elizabeth II has led the British Commonwealth for over 70 years and has remained steadfast in that post through many challenging events. She stood out and was greatly respected by many world leaders as a true "Statesman" and Head of State who held the best interest of the people above her own personal needs.

His Majesty King Charles III is now the head of State in Canada and proclaimed Canada's monarch in a ceremony in Ottawa. We wish him well in his new role as His Majesty King Charles III of the British Commonwealth.

There are a few changes that are apparent but should be clarified for everyone's benefit. The first change is to the British National Anthem. It is no longer appropriate to sing "God save the Queen" and other sections associated with a female representative of state. The proper lyrics now are;

God save our gracious King!
Long live our noble King!
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the King!

When toasting during a formal banquet the procedure is the same except for toasting "The Queen and the Craft" it will be to "The King and the Craft."

There will be no draping of the Warrant as the only appropriate time to drape the warrant is at the passing of a Past Grand Master.

There may be a moment of silence, but it should be inclusive of departed Knights as well.

There will be no flying of flags at half-mast within the Preceptory as they must be properly displayed at all times.

As is the customary practice at the Annual Assembly of Sovereign Great Priory that we affirm our loyalty to the Head of State for the Commonwealth including Canada, let us know affirm our loyalty and confirm to him our full support.

May our Great Redeemer keep him safe in his journey and guide him on his passage.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order,

Geoffrey C. Perry

M. Em. Kt. Geoffrey C. Perry G.C.T.
Supreme Grand Master
Sovereign Great Priory of Canada