



# 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**

## **Supreme Grand Master's Christmas Message 2022**

Sir Knights,

The sight the other morning reminded me that the Fall season is slowly receding, and Winter is fast approaching. We experienced a couple of minor snow falls exceedingly early in Southern Ontario and especially Windsor. The Christmas decorations in the store appeared right after Halloween but it just did not raise the Christmas spirit until the snow appeared. People have started to make plans for a Christmas Holiday with friends and family for the first time in the last couple of years. It is amazing to see the rebound of people's spirit and the joy of celebrating our Saviors' birth.

During this time people forget their minor squabbles and mend old friendships. This is also a time when one's generous spirit comes to the forefront and extends that generosity to those not as fortunate. It brings the true meaning of Christmas day into people's lives even if it is for a brief time.

While we all know about the Savior's birth and the visit by the shepherds and the wise men. The significance of the gifts from the wise men have not often been spoken of. Each one of them had their own significance. Gold is affiliated with Kings and the Christians believe that Jesus was the King of Kings. Frankincense is used in liturgical worship in traditional Churches and represented that people would worship and praise Jesus. Myrrh is a fragrance that is embedded on dead bodies to make them smell pleasant and according to John's Gospel, Nicodemus, and Joseph of Arimathea brought a 100-pound mixture of myrrh and aloes to wrap Jesus' body after his crucifixion.

It is also worthy of note that the Wise men were not present at his birth but did not visit Jesus until he was between 1-2 years old. The fact that they were so committed to this journey of more than a year speaks volumes for their dedication to their joint quest. While they were from different religious origins, they recognized the significance of his birth for all people regardless of faith.

As Knight Templars we are dedicated to the defense of the Christian faith and are also familiar with long sojourns and their consequences. Our history reminds us of the journey of a group of knights whose numbers had been decimated and despair instilled in all those that

remained except for their leader. Yet the sight of the Holy city by the golden rays of the morning light rejuvenated their spirits and instilled within them a new understanding of their faith and what they fought for.

The Christmas Holidays remind us of the child born in the stables unknown to many. He would change the world in his short life. His teachings are a moral compass for us to follow in our lives. He preached love for your fellow man even if they are your adversaries. Jesus was tortured, humiliated, and mocked, yet he forgave them and asked his father to forgive them even when he hung from the cross. Some of his last words were “forgive them father for they know not what they do.”

We must also keep that in mind in our daily dealings as well. We must hope that the spirit of our Saviour provides us with the ability to show others, through our actions, that Christ was born to show us the way to salvation through him.

Christmas is the time when his spirit truly impacts on people, and they change the way they react to others. The time when the light of his spirit enters the dark places in their lives and shine light and its hope for a better future. Let us this season help spread his light into those dark places and help those in need spiritually and physically the way he opened his arms to embrace all who accepted him as their Saviour.

May the light of his spirit shine on us over this Holiday season and bring to us the joy of his peace of mind and spirit so we may better do his work. I wish all Knights and their family a Merry Christmas and New Year filled with joy and that our Great Redeemer keeps you all safe in your travels.

Yours in the Bonds of the Order.

*Geoffrey C. Perry*

Most Eminent Knight, Geoffrey C. Perry G.C.T.

Supreme Grand Master - Sovereign Great Priory of Canada

***The Supreme Grand Master's Christmas Message is to be read in open Preceptory or at your Christmas Observance by the Provincial Grand Prior or Senior Great Priory Officer present.***