



Grand College of America

Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests

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January 19, 2021

Dear Knights Priests,

On January 14, 2021 we received an e-mail from Knight Priest Glyn Goddard, Grand Registrar of the Grand College situate York, England informing us they would not be able to be at our In-Gathering in Louisville on May 22, 2021 to confer the Order of Holy Wisdom because of the Coronavirus. On Friday, January 16, 2021, I discussed the situation with the Senior Officers about how to proceed. After the discussions it was decided that we advertised the May meeting to have our British counterparts confer the Order of Holy Wisdom, something they do in an outstanding manner. We looked at the ritual and discovered it to be complex. To organize an American team to confer an Order they themselves had never witnessed in a short amount of time would be extremely difficult.

As a result of this development and the continued Coronavirus problem, we are cancelling the Special In-Gathering of the Grand College scheduled for May 22, 2021 in Louisville. Instead, we are merely postponing our Annual In-Gathering until that date and it will be held in a Zoom format with information to be forthcoming.

At the Friday Zoom meeting, discussions were held concerning the future of the Order of Holy Wisdom in the United States. We had all received many calls from our fellow Knights Priests expressing interest in the Order of Holy Wisdom we were intending to confer and were expecting over 100 candidates at Louisville! At best we would only be able to confer the order on 30 candidates if we were even able to get the time in the Masonic Week venue. Time restraints, the necessity to flip the room after the conferral and then only be able to do the conferral on 30 Knights Priests make it impossible to adopt the Order of Holy Wisdom if we remain a part of the Masonic Week meetings. It was decided that if we are to adopt the Order of Holy Wisdom, we need a two-day Independent Meeting where we are in control of our own schedule and have facilities suitable for conferring the Order of Holy Wisdom.

Additionally, the Brown Hotel in Louisville is offering us a very generous 1 free room with 25 comp policy as well as a \$5 rebate on every room and reasonable meal prices. This would greatly reduce the costs of our Annual In-Gathering.

Legislation will be presented on May 22, 2021 at our Annual In-Gathering held via Zoom to move our Annual In-Gathering to Louisville for three years. The dates are February 26, 2022, February 25, 2023, and February 24, 2024. If you want to be able to receive the Order of Holy Wisdom, we hope that you approve this legislation. The future of this Order is in your hands.

The Senior Officers have agreed that it would be best to continue the Officers in place for another year. Our Delegates would need to approve this decision.

Faternally,

James C. Herndon

Grand Preceptor