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## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

### What gifts shall I bring to the Babe?

With advancing age, comes a need and even a yearning for less “stuff”. Our spouses and children and our friends often ask for gift ideas. I just had a birthday and, having more than I need in life, was unable to provide my family with a wish list. Most of my desires for “things” have been fulfilled.

As we prepare for yet another season of gift-giving, another season of frenzied shopping for something that might please our loved ones, what thoughts do we give to honoring our Lord and savior, the Babe in the manger that the Season supposedly--hopefully--honors?

The Magi, after they had seen the Star in the East asked themselves the same question we are asking ourselves today, “*What gift can I give to this child, to the King of creation?*” It is reported that the Magi searched for many days, if not months, and, finding the Babe, fell down and worshiped Him and presented Him with their gifts, their treasures of gold, frankincense and myrrh. (Matt. 2.11). Only Matthew tells us of the story of the Magi and, although there is no definition in the story as to how many of them there were in the company, we have developed a legend that there were three based upon the description of only three gifts.

One of those three gifts was the wealth of one of the Magi. Gold, or the coin of the realm, is something we are familiar with and use for many of our gifts as well.

Another of the gifts presented to the Babe was frankincense, or perfume—something only the rich could afford. Some have called this Magi gift “the sweet savor of sacrifice,” possibly because once used, its value was lost, gone forever. The very act of using it was something of a sacrifice.

The last of the Magi’s gifts was myrrh, perfume of weddings, medicine for pain, and an unguent for burial.

So, the Magi presented the Babe with their wealth, composed of gold, perfume to enhance their appeal to themselves and those around them, and another perfume to hide the burial smells of death.

We are not probably not so fortunate as to have such exotic gifts available to us to present to the Babe.

We can bring Him our wealth, and are challenged to do so by our churches, our charitable foundations, even our own Knights Templar Eye and Educational Foundations. It is generally the easiest thing we do—simply give of our wealth without personal involvement attached to it. Its giving does help pay for so many things in our world; many good deeds are accomplished and many

needy are lifted up by the gifts of our wealth.

We can bring Him our frankincense—the perfume of life—which is our praise, our joy in our worship, which will be a sweet fragrance of those around each one of us, and, thereby to the Babe. Again this should be an easy gift for us to bring to the Babe; one that will improve our own lives by its giving, as well as those who are there to witness and share in the joy of the gift.

We can bring Him the gift of myrrh, a gift, as noted above, associated with death. But we can only bring this gift to the Babe if we genuinely die to ourselves, our selfish desires, our self-centeredness and our pride. This perfume will bring healing to our egos and joy to those close to us.

Yes, we can bring these gifts to the Babe, and he will graciously receive and accept them, because that is what He does. He is always there to receive our wealth to be used to spread the gospel and the benefit of the needy. He will always be there to receive and accept our fragrances of our praise. And He will always be there to receive and acknowledge the healing we experience in our dying to our selfish desires and the resultant improvement in our personal lives and, more especially, in our treatment of others.

If we bring gifts such as these, we will each please the Babe. But many years before the Babe’s birth Micah told us what the Lord wanted and expected of us, and it is so little, yet so demanding:

*With what I shall come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the  
Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil?  
Shall I offer my first born for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of  
my Soul? He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord  
require of you? **To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your  
God.** Micah 6:6-8*

What gifts shall we bring to the Babe? We can and must bring Him the best of our gifts. So, this Christmas season, challenge yourself to give Him what He has showed you is good; give him the only thing he demands of each of us: **Act, justly, love and enjoy mercy, and walk humbly with your God,** and He will be most pleased with your gift.

The foregoing message was prepared at my request by our Eminent Grand Prelate, Sir Knight James N. Higdon, PGC, KCT.

Thomas W. Snyder  
Grand Commander

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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| January 12, 2008      | Midlothian Centennial Festival (Chapter & Council Only)<br>1414 N. 9th Street, Midlothian  |
| January 12, 2008      | Park Place York Rite Bodies One-Day Festival<br>6820 Tipperay, Houston, 7:00 am to 6:00 pm |
| January 18 & 19, 2008 | Dallas Festival<br>507 S. Harwood, Dallas  |