

**ARIZONA
SUPPLEMENT**

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**Grand Commander's Message
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Easter is a time for celebrating the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As Knights Templar we are taught that we are true followers of Jesus Christ. But Easter while it is the time of reflection, it is not a time for sorrow but for joy. The Reverend Richard G. Lennon put it best when he said that Easter is worthy of the word "happy" in that Easter is the mystery of our faith and the source of unending joy and happiness now and forever.

"The joy of Easter comes from the gift of life that is won for those who believe. This new life in Christ, celebrated at Easter, is the centerpiece of our Christian faith. Passing through His passion, Jesus Christ triumphed over death and won for us eternal life. This Easter miracle is so complete and thorough that St. Paul asks with awe and wonder, "Death where is your victory, death where is your sting?" Jesus' rising to life from death is not simply a victory for Him but a triumph for all of us in Him." (R.G. Lennon, 2007).

I want to admonish all Sir Knights to take part in the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and also to not forget Ascension Sunday.

I want to thank all Sir Knights who attended the special meeting of the Grand Commandery on January 17, 2009. Also a special thank you goes out to St Andrews Commandery #17 and their Eminent Commander David P. Miller, the Grand Commandery officers, Sir Knights and their ladies who attended the special evening of fellowship, and for the dinner they gave in my honor.

In His Service,
Joe Cortez,
Right Eminent Grand Commander
The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Arizona

2009 Grand Prelate's Easter Message:

Death and Resurrection

One of the most powerful archetypes that permeates our stories and our daily lives as Knights Templar is that of death and the resurrection. It is a universal experience that is present in the creation around us, in the relationship we have with others, and in the renewals that take place in our own heart, mind, and soul.

In the creation, we see death and resurrection in the cycles of nature. The sun "dies" at the end of the day, and is then "reborn" the next morning. The Seasons also have a death and resurrection which symbolizes new life for all of us.

In our human relationships, death and resurrection are constantly at play. A relationship may die because of a betrayal, only to be reborn even stronger through repentance and forgiveness. Our false images of a person may die, only to be replaced by more truthful and honest reflections of the real person.

Often, we must go through periods of deep loss and depression in order to make us aware that our patterns of thinking, feeling, and behaving are inauthentic, dishonest, and unhealthy. This often sets the stage for intense and deep spiritual and psychological growth and insight. Without pain and crisis in our lives, we often tend to become superficial and complacent people and unable to feel deeply the core values of what is really important in life.

In the Christian faith and as Knights Templar, the death and resurrection of Jesus is the core of our faith. We see a loving, compassionate, faithful man who felt the sufferings of creation and humanity at a very deep level. He was very honest in his telling of the truth, and many simply did not want their dishonest world views much like we see today challenged. So they killed him to try to get rid of this "troublesome prophet." But we know that Jesus' resurrection tells us that evil never wins in the end. That is what Easter is really all about and teaches us there is new life after death.

A very blessed Easter to all of you,
The Rev. Lowell E. Andrews+
Grand Prelate, Arizona Knights Templar