



## Indiana Supplement

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David Bertch, GC

# On the home stretch

For a child, time seems to pass so slowly, but for those of us who are more, shall we say, mature, time does run quickly. It really does feel as if it was only a few weeks ago that you conferred upon me the highest office in our organization. Yet, after blinking a number of times, I find the year is almost over.

It is my hope that you feel the Officers of your Grand Commandery have well represented you in visits to Grand Commanderies in other states. I know we covered all the states in the East Central Department and some others as well. I can highly recommend your attendance at out of state Conclaves – you will be welcomed with open arms and make lasting friendships.

The one day class honoring Most Worshipful Grand Master Jeffrey P. Zaring in August at the Murat Center was most successful. There was outstanding work put on by all concerned. I can not thank my counterparts and good friends Kris Phillips and Gary Wyne enough for all the hard work they put into that day.

The kindness and friendship which each of you has shown to me and the respect for the office which I have been privileged to hold has been wonderful. As some of you may know, I have experienced some health problems over the last two years and your thoughts and prayers have helped as no doctor or medicine possibly could.

The receptions and the Order conferrals last fall went well, and you should be proud of the work displayed. New candidates will be impressed with your efforts.

Your attendance at the reception at your Commandery is important. Even if you in no way participate in ritual or tactics, merely being there to support your Commandery and fellowship with the members means so much. Please, if you have not attended a reception at your Commandery in the last few years, make every effort to be there next fall.

We have the finest group of very hard working and caring men making up the Officer Line of the Grand Commandery. I certainly hope you will support the new Officers of the Grand Commandery, who will take office in April, with as much loyalty and enthusiasm as you have demonstrated this past year.

My Fraters, this has been somewhat rambling, but I had some things which were important to me to express. I hope to see you down the road.

Sincerely and fraternally, **David M. Bertch REGC**

## Grand Prelate's Easter Message

By **Byron W. Schull, Grand Prelate**

Sometime in our lives, most have been asked, "What is your favorite Holiday?" We all have a favorite. As a child, most say Christmas. Then maybe, Halloween. Perhaps, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. My favorite holiday is Easter.

Why Easter? To me, it represents the all encompassing love of God for His Creation. He loved us so much, he sent His son, Jesus Christ, to bring that love in living form to us. He wanted us to understand that love so much, that He let His son suffer and be crucified on the cross for us. Jesus loved us so much, that even in dying, He gave life to another on the cross, and promised him that 'today you will be with me in Paradise'. Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for another – and Jesus did it for the whole world! He allowed himself to be betrayed and killed for YOU –and he did it so you would not have to. He was resurrected into new life for YOU, as living proof that YOUR life can also be resurrected. I call upon each of you to celebrate the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus by being compassionate and understanding about the challenges of life for your fellow man – especially the one in the mirror. Glorify Him with your commitment to transform YOUR life!

AND WHAT IS THE GREATEST PROMISE OF EASTER? JESUS WILL RETURN. How do we know this? The gospel of John, Chapter 20, vs. 5-8 tell us the story of the Jewish custom of the folded napkin. When the master of the household had finished eating, he would wipe his mouth, wad the napkin, and toss it on the table, and the servant would know that he was finished and not coming back. If folded, and laid down, he was coming back. At the tomb of Jesus, Mary Magdalene saw that the Master was gone, and cried out that they had taken the Lord's body out of the tomb. When Peter looked in, he saw the napkin used to cover the head of Christ, and it was lying there, neatly folded, meaning "I am not finished, I am coming back!". For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, shall not perish, but have everlasting life!

WHAT A GLORIOUS PROMISE!

There is no greater LOVE!!

## Grand Commander's Easter Message

Birth, Life, Death, Resurrection, Ascension - familiar terms to Templars.

Easter is the season marking the Resurrection of Jesus Christ – our Lord and Savior. While many of us may put a more important emphasis on Christmas, in the Eastern Church, Easter is probably the most important observance of the Christian Year. Because this delineates the miraculous time when God made man suffered and died for us and for our sins, rose from the dead on the third day, was seen by his disciples, then was taken up into the clouds - with the promise that one day he will return What a wonderful hope for all humankind.

As Knights Templars we should not forget that we ourselves must in word and deed be disciples. Each of us, in his own way, must strive spread the Good News.

It is my hope that each of you and your families are able to celebrate a most meaningful Easter this year.

Sir Knights, if your Commandery has an Easter Observance, keep up the good work. If it is not the habit of your Commandery to Observe Easter, please give it your sincere consideration this year.

In Templary, **David M. Bertch, REGC**