

**ARIZONA  
SUPPLEMENT**

**Peter H. Johnson, Jr., P.G.C., Editor**  
1524 Smith Drive  
Holbrook, AZ 86025  
(928) 524-3248

**johnson618@cableone.net**



**GRAND PRELATE'S MESSAGE  
ABOUT OUR EASTER**

We are at the point where our preparation turns toward Easter, and one of my spiritual exercises is trying to look at our faith with eyes of someone who is unchurched. The part of the U.S. population which has not been introduced to the faith of Jesus has swelled over the last generation. As a result, I realize that much of the symbolism and spiritual strength we derive from our seasonal celebrations simply does not compute for a very large part of our populace. As we draw near to the end of Lent and approach Easter, many of us are bound to be asked by someone, "What is this Easter stuff all about, anyway?"

The best place for us to begin to answer this question is to find common ground. Most of our friends, relatives, and workmates are aware of how the "real" world works. They have learned this from the school of hard knocks. They know the basic system works on an exchange of valued items or services: You do for me, and I'll do for you. This is also known as a "fee for service" economy. Eventually a problem arises. Someone, at some point, doesn't have what it takes to complete the exchange. Or maybe the system of competition simply won't work for them. That is when people drop out or are pushed out of the world's structures. When a person finds him or herself out of the loop of this system, it is very difficult to find a way back in. Many we know are aware of this danger and live in some degree of fear of being forced out of the game or perhaps already have been. That is when a person wishes things were different.

Of all the people in the world, Christians are the most practical. We know how the world works. Our faith is based on the recognition of the truths above. Those truths form a central part of our story. The story of the life and work of Jesus of Nazareth is all about what happens when someone tries to live too good a life. Jesus lived his life dedicated to the two great commandments of loving God and loving his neighbor. At every step along the way he placed the needs of others before his own and we as Christians know where all this led. It led to Golgotha and the tomb.

We know something else; we know how the real God works. That was demonstrated on that first Easter morning. The Christian faith is based on an empty tomb. On the third day after the world did its very worst to Jesus, God won; He would not let His Son remain dead and raised him to life again. Christians understand what this means. It shouts to every dark place in the world that brokenness, disappointment, failure, heartbreak, and death are not the final words. The final word is the love of God, the gift of Easter. This is the very practical message of Easter and the people of God sing, with their lips and their lives, "Hosanna! Amen. Alleluia!" Be ready, fellow Knights, someone is bound to ask you to explain this soon.

A Blessed Easter for He is risen,  
The Rev'd & SK Lowell E. Andrews,  
Grand Prelate, Arizona Knights Templar

\* \* \* \* \*

**Greetings and Salutations Sir Knights of Arizona:**

How good it is to be among the brethren! Recently a number of Commanderies served as honor guard for the new Shrine Potentate, who is also a York Rite Mason, and had requested a guard and color team. Joe Zito sent emails requesting Templars. About twelve arrived to practice drill, and by the time of the meeting, another eight had shown up, including cap and mantels to serve as the color guard. Templars in class A uniforms marched with swords shouldered; the color guard were outstanding in their cap and mantels. The Knights should be proud of the perfection of the march and the presentation of the flag. The Knights continued to serve in the present swords position during the presentation of honored guests and their ladies.

Following our presentation, the Templars retired to the Red Fez Room to enjoy one another's company, a few libations, and to solve all the problems of Templary, or so it seemed. A great time was had by all, and even better time was had for the guardsmen who decided to stay awhile and enjoy the evening. I look forward to our next meeting, or whatever event comes out way. See you Commandery!

S.K. Terry Kelly,  
Grand Warden