



Pennsylvania Crusader

Since 1948

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA
pagrandcommandery.org

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My Fellow Fraters,

So, here we are....!

It's hard to believe the year is (almost) gone, my term as Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania is in its waning days. In a little more than three weeks from this writing (but who's counting anyway) Sir Knight and my dear Fellow Frater, Thomas Carl Helm will have the Red Cords placed upon his neck to lead the Pennsylvania Sir Knights into the next chapter. Please extend the same respect and cordialities to Sir Knight Tom that you extended me during this past year as I traveled around the state as well as the Northeast Department.

While I did not get to accomplish all that I had set out to do, I'm comfortable with what was completed. I have every one of **YOU** to thank for that! At my lowest point emotionally when Lady Pauline and I had to say good-bye to our Fur Baby Charlie, I was determined to help shelter animals as Charlie by raising funds for the no-kill private shelters by the selling of Purple Paw Pins, and **YOU** delivered beyond my wildest imagination! I'd set a personal goal of raising \$2,500.00 which was dispersed in \$250.00 checks across the state and exceeded that goal by \$800.00! The stories told to me about your rescues made my heart swell and helped ease the pain I was feeling. Although I still miss our Charlie Bear, I feel better about helping those that needed it most. Thank you!

REPGC & Grand Recorder Mark Mattern and myself jointly and separately had fundraisers to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of DeMolay in Pennsylvania by selling 225th Anniversary Malta Jewels and Challenge Coins I had struck with the DeMolay shield. Without giving away the end result, I feel strongly that PA

DeMolay will be VERY happy with our efforts, and again I/we thank **YOU** for making that possible!

The several emotions I'm feeling at this moment—pride, sadness, envy (Tom gets HIS turn now!), calm, etc. make what I want to say hard to put into words. Every one of **YOU**--Sir Knights, Ladies, friends of Templary—in one way, shape or form influenced and touched my life this past year and for that I am eternally grateful. The friendships made and renewed are more valuable to me than any material possession. I also feel loss—the passing of many Fraters this past year will be recognized at the Annual Conclave and with that the emotions felt at their passing will again bubble to the surface. But we soldier on....

Thank **YOU** all again for making a special part of my life so memorable. From Lady Pauline and I we wish you nothing but the best!

When we all work together, great things are possible!

Courteously (for the last time),

Sir Knight Harry Jude Smith, Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania