



Pennsylvania Crusader

Since 1948

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA
pagrandcommandery.org

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Greetings Sir Knights

Here we are in the middle of the season of Harvest and getting ready for the holiday season to start next month. But for now, we enjoy the beautiful changing colors of the trees and fauna all around us. I drive through this great state traveling to Commandery's and other Knights Templar activities and the journeys are always enjoyed being accompanied by the changing of the seasons. As the seasons change, we should also challenge ourselves in advancing our goals to improve our Commandery's. Are we building our membership? Are we increasing our proficiency with our ritual? Developing educational and interesting programs for our conclaves? Visiting other Commandery's within/outside our Division and Sections? Attending special Templar events such as the Section Receptions, Line Officers & Division Commanders Seminar, and Leadership programs, Easter Sunrise, etc.? We should all be able to answer these questions in the affirmative.

And are we taking care of each other? Are we calling our Fraters and inviting them to join us in the conclave? Are we checking up on families, conducting charitable activities such as food drives and clothing drives? Sir Knights, there are so many things we can do to help our Fraters and our Commandery's. Let us not forget to SERVE our communities and conduct ourselves as the Christian Knights we are.

We continually strive to Serve others in our Commandery's, and communities with our fund raising (Tunnel to Towers, food, and clothing collections). Let us not forget that we are approaching the Thanksgiving and Christmas season and there are multitudes of people around us who are less fortunate than we are. Let us all make a concerted effort to "step-up" and help as many people as we can. Consider a special delivery of food, clothing, a special donation to our theme charity this year – Tunnel to Towers. Maybe host a dinner at the Commandery or somewhere local where friends, neighbors, and those in need may join us for an evening meal.

The start of Fall has been a busy time. In addition to Individual visitations, there has been the Northeast Department Conference, Flight 93 Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony, Gettysburg Weekend (banquet, wreath laying and Divine Service), Central Section Joint Conclave and Reception, Division 11 Joint Conclave, and the Grand Council Testimonial. When we add all of this to the many other Masonic meetings we've attended, it proves to be a busy month. Your hard work is evident when I visit your Commandery and it is greatly appreciated.

The following is by Pastor Richard DeFord "Why Am I a Knight Templar in Modern Times?" In part, he says because a Knight of Christ is needed for times like these. When Templar's rode in past centuries, their mission was to protect innocents who were attacked without provocation. Today these attacks continue around the world. But our war is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, the rulers of wickedness. We seek to encourage believers, grow disciples, and bolster those seeking righteousness. We are Christian Knights serving Jesus Christ, and He promises that we can do all things through Him because He provides our strength in wicked times.

Upcoming Events

October 14	Wreath Laying Easton Cemetery
October 15	Southeast Section Reception, North Wales, PA
October 22	DeMolay Legion of Honor Conferral, Elizabethtown, PA
October 22	Northeast Section Reception, Lehigh Valley Country Club
October 26	Joint Conclave: Centennial No. 55 and Lancaster No. 13
October 27-29	Massachusetts/Rhode Island Semiannual Grand Conclave
November 2	York Rite Unity Night - Pilgrim No. 11, Harrisburg, PA
November 3-5	Line Officer & Division Commanders Seminar – Elizabethtown, PA

Templar Knights in history: Roger de Flor (1266 - 1306) was arguably the most famous Templar who was a sergeant-brother, not a knight. Roger de Flor, also known by his original German name of Rutger von Blume, was a captain in the Templar fleet. After he was banished from the Order on charges of exhorting money from passengers during the siege of Acre in 1291, Roger sought employment around the Mediterranean, eventually becoming a pirate. De Flor's assassination was ordered by the Byzantine Emperor Michael IX Palaeologus.

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer." Romans 12:12



In His Service,
S.K. Thomas C. Helm
Grand Commander



Prelate's Message

Sir Knights and brothers all:

As the Sundays of October wind to a close Ordinary Time of this liturgical year for the church, we hear Our Lord Jesus speak parables about the Kingdom of God. This is fitting, as it must be, to prepare us to start anew when advent begins each year, always with a careful eye, so that we may recognize if this is the Advent of Advents for which all humanity waits. We constantly need trained, and retrained, to understand the nature of the Kingdom of God, just like a mighty army needs to train and retrain for battle. For when the fullness of the Kingdom of God begins to break through this world it will most assuredly be missed by many until much of what remains of the present has passed away!

Perhaps we should consider these parables are just difficult enough to stretch our understanding of things to better comprehend the nuances of the Kingdom of God when it is being revealed. Just like difficult math problems teach young children how to think differently about problem solving. Or, how in the interpretation of art between two people looking at the same painting can reveal perspectives not seen by the other. Theological study, with scripture in one hand and a commentary in the other, is an armor for the intellectual theologian within every Christian; a necessary training of any level of experience.

Our study of these parables becomes a training ground, I propose, especially for those whose oath is to be ready in battle (physically by the sword or spiritually by prayer) to defend Christ's Holy Church until it is eternally triumphant. It would be wonderful if each of our commanderies across this great commonwealth were to dust off these pieces of armor and start training again! It is quite simple! Many of us spend an hour rehearsing duties, sword tactics, steps, and ritual each month. What do you think Christ could do with us if we picked up the Word and trained ourselves in it again, just as regularly?

Maybe, all it would take is 15 minutes of your commandery rehearsal night to begin with prayer, a reading of scripture, and a short commentary by one of the great church fathers. Or, a few times throughout the year devote some time together in a real study of scripture, a roundtable discussion, or invite a local clergy or two for dinner with your commandery and ask them to discuss a chapter or parable with the members. If we are true to our faith, each one of us sees a member of the clergy every Sunday... why not invite them to learn about your commandery, share a study with you, and maybe hand them a Holy Land Pilgrimage application!

If you would like to introduce a little study armor in your commandery, just ask! I'd be happy to share some material, commentary, or guidance. And, any of our Grand Prelates would be more than happy to help in this cause, as I'm sure each of us has more books than we know what to do with anymore. Building up the spiritual knowledge of the faithful is important as we draw closer to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and when He comes, may He find us ready, and by His merit alone, may He make us worthy of His Kingdom Eternal.

Blessings to you in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit! AMEN.

The Rev. Dr. S.K. Nathan Corl Minnich, HPGC
Associate Grand Prelate

P.S. – I want to extend my sincere appreciation to all the members of the Grand Commandery for your faith and trust. Bestowing upon me the great responsibility of representing all of you as an Honorary Right Eminent Past Grand Commander is humbling, and inspiring. It allows me to sit on the Grand Encampment Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee alongside Duane A. Kemerley, KGC, HPGC so that he can continue to train me in this work for the future of the pilgrimage program. It has been a joy working with him these past ten years, and I'm very excited for the future, and proud to represent Pennsylvania Knights Templar in this capacity!