



# Pennsylvania Crusader

Since 1948

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
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## November 2023

### *Greetings Sir Knights,*

The month of November is highlighted by Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is the time where we gather with family and celebrate with turkey, ham, filling, many other kinds of food and tasty desserts. Forget not our veterans as you sit down to table, let us not forget to give thanks to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ them and for all His blessings in our lives. We should continue sharing our bounty with those who are less fortunate than ourselves. This bounty extends beyond material gifts. We are called to serve, giving of ourselves to others, the spiritual gifts that are also bestowed upon us by God. Always remember your oath. We swore to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and bind up the wounds of the afflicted. What better gifts as Christian Knights can we offer than ourselves to those in need?

Brother George Washington in 1789 proposed Thanksgiving as a day of public thanksgiving and prayer. The origin of this American celebration can be traced back to Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1621. Abraham Lincoln on October 3, 1863, following the battle of Gettysburg declared that the nation would celebrate an official Thanksgiving Holiday on November 26, 1863, and every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of November going forward.

Be thankful for what you have and remember that Jesus gave all for us. We all have received many blessings in our lives. I say to you, SERVE your fellow human beings, be as charitable as you are able, share your bounty and share the blessings you have been given, without prejudice to yourself or family. Through our actions we can all make somebody else's life better.

This season is a busy one for us with Thanksgiving, Christmas next month, conclaves, the Line Officer & Division Commanders Seminar, Receptions, York Rite Unity Night and many other Templar activities and events. We have much to be thankful for; we have our country, our families, friends, a semblance of peace within our borders, our fellow Fraters and too many other things to mention in this small space. Take some time to reflect on how fortunate you are and how much good we can do by serving others. Your donations to Tunnel to Towers Foundation will allow them to spread your financial gift far and wide beyond what you are doing in your Commanderies. I thank you for your time and efforts and wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving Holiday. May God bless and keep you safe.

Remember this: He who gives up security for safety, deserves neither.

### **Upcoming Events**

November 2	York Rite Unity Night - Pilgrim No. 11 Zembo in Harrisburg
November 3-5	Line Officers/Division Commanders Seminar - Elizabethtown
November 5	Grand Preceptors – Harrisburg
November 11	Order of the Temple – Allen-Beauceant
November 19	Church Service in Oley

**Templar Knights in history:** Geoffroi de Charney (1252 - March 1314). At the height of his career de Charney held an important position as the Preceptor of Normandy. He was burned at the stake in Paris alongside Jacques de Molay, as both proclaimed the Order's innocence. It is presumed that the de Charney family remained in possession of the most cherished Templar relic which was later revealed to the public by a French knight named Geoffroi de Charney in the 1350's. Today this relic is known as the Shroud of Turin.

**"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23**



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



## Prelate's Message

Psalms 28:7 NIV

The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.

Dia duit,

With November here, we have plenty to be thankful for. In the United States, we have two holidays this month that should stir our hearts to thankfulness: Veterans Day and Thanksgiving.

With our Grand Commander's Charity of Tunnels to Towers in mind, we should remember all of those who have sacrificed for our safety and security in this nation. While as Christians, our hope and security is in the LORD, God has given strength to many men and women who have volunteered to place themselves between us and the physical dangers of the world. I hope that I am not the only one of us who thinks of and prays for specific members of our Armed Forces when our chaplains pray for them.

All those who have honorably served our nation are due our thanks and respect. They have acted as a physical shield for our safety. For those of you reading this who have served in any Branch, thank you. I will be remembering you this Veterans Day. Many of your Brethen are thankful for the service, hardship, and sacrifice that you have made for us and our nation.

In this spirit of thankfulness, we should also remember the many other gifts and graces that God has provided for us. While we start our month with being thankful for the service of our Veterans, we end it in general Thanksgiving.

While too often we forget the point of Thanksgiving, I hope to remind us of it now: to be thankful for what we have. God tells us not to covet what someone else has, but to be happy with what we have been given. Not surprisingly, this is sound advice.

We should be thankful for all the gifts we have, and all the joys that God has given us. God has given us so much, why do we waste time getting upset that we do not have more? We cannot take it with us when we go, so why worry about it?

Christ tells us to disregard the things of this world, Saint Paul tells us to be thankful for hardships, and the original Knights Templar of the 12th century gave up all of their worldly possessions to serve the pilgrims going to the Holy Land in Christ's Name. Thanksgiving should not be a day set aside just to fill our stomachs to overflowing or complain about what toys someone else has. It should be to remember the gifts God has given you. While we can be thankful for such things as a roof over our head, a car that gets us places, and food to eat, should we not be more thankful for immaterial things like the brotherhood we experience, the love of family and friends, and the Salvation we have through the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

This November, may you remember the sacrifices that others have made on your behalf and be thankful. Whether it is the sacrifice of service men and women or of our Savior, be thankful. May your hearts leap for joy and may you sing praises to God for them.

May you be blessed and ever thankful,  
SK Pastor Josh Yorks, AGP



Let us give thanks with grateful hearts.