



Pennsylvania Crusader

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA

pagrandcommandery.org

SK Douglas Rowe, Grand Recorder

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Richard F. Muth, Grand Commander

Greetings Sir Knights,

It is April, and this month we will install the new Officers in our Commanderies as we prepare for a new Templar Year and look forward to our Annual Conclave next month. The Annual Conclave will be held May 15-17, 2020 at the Pittsburgh Marriot North, 100 Cranberry Woods Drive, Cranberry, PA 16066. It is not only a time for us to conduct the business of your Grand Commandery, it is also a time for fellowship with your fraters from around the Commonwealth, and beyond. We sincerely hope that you will join us for the festivities.

More importantly, on Sunday April 12 Christians around the world will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. It is an immensely important day for all Knights Templar as one of the three great dates on the Christian calendar. Christmas celebrates that great gift of God becoming man, to dwell among us. Good Friday is the day on which our Lord became, as the Pascal Lamb, the sacrifice for our sin, and paid the penalty with His own blood. Easter is the celebration of His triumph over death and the powers of darkness. Without any one of these three great events we would remain lost in our sin, unredeemed, and unreconciled with our God. But, because of them, He is "the blessed Emanuel, the Prince of Peace, the Great Captain of our Salvation," and His reign shall be "everlasting and eternal," just as we hear in our ritual.

Be sure to celebrate this profound event. Perhaps you will do so with your fraters, in Alexandria, VA, at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial for the Grand Encampment's 90th Annual East Coast Easter Observance. It is always a stirring occasion and one which every Pennsylvania Templar should endeavor to go to at least once. Additional information and registration forms are posted on our website, and that of the Grand Encampment. No registration is needed for Sunday morning!

If you do come to Alexandria that weekend, I hope that you will also join with your fellow Pennsylvanians at the Tomb of the Unknown

Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, on Saturday April 11 at 10am, when your Grand Commandery and Grand Council will lay a wreath to honor our Veterans who have paid the ultimate price for Liberty. Be sure to wear your full Templar uniform, except sword, and meet us there. Directions and information will be available at the Pennsylvania hospitality room in the Hilton Hotel. Remember to leave enough time to pass through security and make your way up the hill, by foot or by tour tram, as it can take up to 30 minutes or more. This event is another way we show the public who we are and what we stand for, please join us.

Yours in His Service,
SK Richard F. Muth
Grand Commander

Some Upcoming Events:

April 11 – Wreath Laying, Tomb of the Unknowns, Arlington, VA
April 12 – 90th Annual GE KT Easter Sunrise Service, Alexandria, VA
May 15-17 – 167th Annual Conclave, Cranberry, PA

A Letter from the Grand Prelate:

Please read Matthew 26-28

Dear Sir Knights:

April arrives bringing the climactic events of Holy Week and the remembrances of the fateful events of our Savior's arrest, trials, torture, crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection. These are events which we draw upon to teach those who receive the Order of the Temple the powerful message of God's salvation. Jesus, our Savior came to show us God's love, teach us how we should live and how we may put our trust in Him even at the point of death.

This is a message we need to ponder frequently. Unfortunately, many in our world spend their days going from one activity or event to another without an awareness of how precious this life truly is. Sadly, many still are only inoculated with enough of the Gospel to become resistant to its claim upon their lives and the blessed good news of the Resurrection.

I continue to keep you in my prayers. May your Lenten journeys conclude with a joyous celebration of Easter. Share the love of God wheresoever you go and know that you are precious in the eyes of God!

Courteously,
SK & Rev. David A. Eichelberger, PDC, KCT, IKT
Grand Prelate