



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,

During the month of February, two teams of pilgrim ministers will be “walking in the steps of Jesus” in a more literal than figurative sense, as they participate in the Grand Encampment Holy Land Pilgrimage tour. This annual program, which is near and dear to my heart, is now in its 38th year of taking ministers of Christ’s Gospel on an intensive and immersive spiritual and educational journey to study scriptural stories in the places where they happened. The experience typically has a profound impact on the participants, on their ministry and ultimately, on their congregations. The Grand Commanderies, or other donors, under the Grand Encampment, cover the cost of the trip. It is a gift to those who minister to our spiritual needs, yet too often have few ministering to their needs.

The cost each year is between \$3,000 and \$4,000, which comes from the Grand Commandery budget. Sometimes, such as this year, a Commandery or an individual Sir Knight will pay for an additional minister from Pennsylvania to go on the pilgrimage. In order to take some burden off the budget, and ultimately your dues, our Grand Commandery has established the Holy Land Pilgrimage Endowment Fund. The investment income from the endowment will sponsor one, or perhaps more, ministers each year. The fund has not quite reached the minimum needed to sponsor even one minister, and so we are still soliciting contributions to help it grow. An incentive program, started by Past Grand Commander John A. Habel, Jr., gives a contributor of \$100 or more, a pewter Pilgrim Pin, and black neck tie with the same image on it. For a contribution totaling \$1,000 or more, donors can also receive a pewter plate with a similar image (as shown at the top of this page). These incentives will continue while supplies last, but inventory is declining.

Anyone wishing to contribute to this endowment fund must make the check payable to the **Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania**, AND also note in the memo field that it is for the **Holy Land**

Pilgrimage Endowment Fund. Those who wish to sponsor an individual Minister should contact the Grand Commandery Office or the Holy Land Pilgrimage Chairman for details. If you would like to receive the Plate, and/or a Pin and Tie, use the form found on the Grand Commandery website and mail it with your check to SK John Habel, REPGC, as indicated thereon.

Also, remember that nominations for ministers to participate in this tour are due in September each year, and must come from Commanderies who need pay nothing. If you know of a worthy Minister who would benefit from this opportunity, be sure to start the process early, prior to the summer.

Thank you all for your support of this most worthy program!

Yours in His Service,

SK Richard F. Muth

Grand Commander

Some Upcoming Events:

April 11 – Wreath Laying, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

April 12 – 90th Annual East Coast Easter Sunrise Service

A Letter from the Grand Prelate: **Please read: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**

Greetings Fraters!

The month of February is my favorite month for several reasons. It happens to be the month when I was born. In 3 years out of 4 it is very neat, with just 4 weeks and no leftover days, which is very convenient. Every fourth year it has an important job when we celebrate a Leap Year and add one extra day so that our calendars and our orbit around the sun are back in synchronization.

Leap years have a way of making us look at our time differently. Sometimes that is upsetting and causes us to be frustrated by the change. It is similarly challenging to bring our Commanderies forward to 2020! We are given still the same task of recruiting, equipping, and training new Sir Knights as in earlier days. How times have changed though from when our commanderies were flourishing in the early 1900’s. Few of us ride on horseback to our Commandery’s Asylum. Most of us use computers every day at home and at the office and carry a phone in our pockets. How can we do our work in Templary and adapt to new challenges and settings?

May God continue to guide our Grand Encampment and Grand Commandery officers as they seek to help us adjust our commanderies to the challenges of today. May God bless and inspire them in this important work!

Courteously,

Rev. and SK David A. Eichelberger PDC, KCT, IKT

Grand Prelate