



SK Ludwik J. Wodka

507 Misty Grove Circle
Morrisville, NC 27560
ludwikwodka@yahoo.com



Editor: Larry Aydlett, KT – larry.aydlett@gmail.com

Greetings Sir Knights,

I would like to begin by congratulating RE Mike Daniels on his extended term in office as Grand Commander. He made very good use of that time in office and can be rightfully proud of all that he accomplished. He is handing off the Grand Commandery of North Carolina in what may be the best financial position it has enjoyed in a long time. Well done, PGC Daniels!

Well, Sir Knights, even though we are embarking upon a new Templar year, the specter of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to haunt us. I know of several knights who have been translated to the celestial lodge above as a result of it. I know that many of you do as well. These burning tapers of life in our Commandery have been extinguished, and none but the Most High can relight them. Please take a moment to remember those we have lost over the last year.

To prevent further unnecessary losses in our ranks, restrictions on meeting in our asylums have been in effect for over a year now. For the second year in a row, the Easter sunrise service at the George Washington Memorial in Alexandria, VA, has been cancelled. This year, the event will be held virtually on Sunday, April 4 at 11:00am Eastern time. Please check the Grand Encampment website for further details.

This year will also witness the 68th Triennial Conclave to be held in Minneapolis, MN from Saturday, August 14, through Wednesday, August 18, 2021. The venue will be the Minneapolis Marriott City Center. If you are interested in going, please consider making accommodations now. Further details are to be found on the Grand Encampment website. Please be aware that as COVID restrictions are continuously in flux, things may change.

This month will witness Easter Sunday, the holiest day on the Christian calendar. On this day we commemorate the ultimate sacrifice made by our Lord and Savior to redeem mankind. In Matthew 28:10, Jesus first words to his disciples after rising from the grave are, "Be not afraid." This is a time to rejoice in His rising; it is a time for hope, not fear.

We all face the daunting task before us of re-emerging from our extended hiatus. Many of us have lost the rhythm of the Masonic calendar and all its familiar cycles which have shaped our schedules and punctuated our months. As a result, many of us (myself included) have been drawn away by other concerns and watched how quickly the gaps left by the lack Masonic activity were filled in by other things. Furthermore, the turmoil that has engulfed the political sphere in the last 12 months has heaped yet more doubt and pessimism upon us. It is now time to look for the path forward that will lead us out of the wilderness. Spring is here, and He is risen! The time for rebirth and renewal is coming.

Let us begin is to rediscover that fellowship that has been interrupted over this time. To return to our lodges, chapters, councils, and commanderies and be with our brethren once again may apply some much-needed balm to the trouble in our hearts. At the time this is being written, the order prohibiting in-person meetings for the Commandery remains in effect. I am optimistic that it won't be too long before we will be able to safely meet together again so that we may begin the process of healing and rebuilding.

In the upcoming months, it remains unclear if and when many of our regular annual events will be held, which include York Rite Honors Day (Saturday, May 1). Hopefully, things will have cleared up sufficiently to hold Summer Assembly once again in July. The Grand Commandery will send out announcements to inform you of upcoming dates and developments.

Courteously,

Ludwik Wodka