



## WISCONSIN Supplement

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Greetings, Sir Knights!

April is here and that means elections and installations for our constituent commanderies. It also means that we are in the process of closing out the 2019-2020 Templar Year as we make plans for 2020-2021. This past year we have faced many challenges, but persevered as we laid the foundation for the ensuing year. While many plans had to be abandoned, other plans developed to keep Templary moving forward. You have done well amid the adversity, and I thank you.

Our Inspection Season is over, and in spite of the covid pandemic we were able to gather together to learn and share some camaraderie. While ZOOM is certainly not the preferred way to meet, it did allow us to conduct some training. I enjoyed the opportunity to spend the morning with our Sir Knights and learn more about our ritual and other topics. I thank you all for your attention and dedication. I wish I could have shaken your hands, but I did get to see your faces. These days the small victories are celebrated.

As you have doubtless heard by now, we are making plans for a virtual Annual Grand Conclave to commence at 9:00 am on June 19, 2021. Our IT Team did an exceptional job last year and with all their newly developed expertise, I have no doubt this year will prove even better. Registration and further information can be found on the Grand Commandery Website; GCKTWIS.org. If you have any questions, contact the Grand Office.

Easter is perhaps the most special day on the Templar Calendar. While we celebrate the birth of our blessed redeemer on Christmas, on Easter we observe his sacrifice and triumph. While birth is always a joyous occasion, as an adult Jesus knew he would soon endure scorn, humiliation, pain and despair. Christ was fully aware of what God had asked him to do, and though he asked if there might not be another way, Jesus also knew that this was to be his lot. He knew that he would pay the debt of sin for all mankind. Though he is the son of God, Jesus was still just a man, born of a woman. He felt all the pain and cried every tear. He drew every painful breath... until the last; enduring the worst that man could inflict. And then he was buried in a tomb, and the world was plunged into darkness.

But on the third day, Jesus broke the bonds of death and appeared to the world once more. For forty days he continued to walk with his disciples and teach his lesson of love. He forgave and loved those who crucified him. He made believers out of those who doubted him. He showed us the path to eternal life, and that the path leads to him. Because of HIS great sacrifice, we are spared the pain and humiliation of death. All we need to do is accept Jesus and his gift. On April 4<sup>th</sup>, let us all celebrate that old rugged cross and give thanks for the wonderful gift God has given us through his son, Jesus Christ.

Happy Easter! God Bless

See you in the Asylum!  
Courteously,  
Charles (Mick) Olson, KCT, REG

Easter 2021 Article for the Knight Templar magazine

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As many of you know, I taught at UW Oshkosh for 17 years before retiring. My articles may have a distinct approach and humor that you should find tolerable, if not amusing at times.

We all know the Easter story as it unfolds in our Bibles and in our Asylums. We also know about the Easter bunny; that cute, fluffy, furry (flea infested) animal that brings us Easter eggs and goodies. But did you know...the first Christians followed the Biblical Hebrew calendar and timed the observance of Easter in relation to the date of the Jewish Passover. The First Council of Nicaea (325 A.D.) established what we observe today. In his book, titled The Unsung Heroes of Easter, Daniel Whyte III tells us the stories of eight (8) Biblical figures relegated to "minor" roles-yet each had profound effects of what we now call Easter. I will delineate but a few (please read about the others for yourself-get educated): \* Pilates wife had a dream and after awaking she told her husband, "Take care thou do not agree that any evil should happen to Jesus the good man..." [Nicodemus 1:4] \*Did the Roman Centurian Longinus realize who Jesus was? Did he have a change of heart? "He stood transfixed at the foot of the Cross, watching and wondering, full of awe and amazement. And then all at once, something was born in him, a spark of faith and he exclaims, "Truly this was a Son of God." \*Joseph of Arimathea, a "secret believer", gave his newly dug tomb to Jesus for burial. This shows great love and great courage. \*Nicodemus, a member of the Pharisees and of the Jewish Council (Sanhedrin) stood up for Jesus when all else was conspiring against him (Jesus). [John3:1-21]

As you can see, we all play a role in this life on earth. Some of us play a larger role than others, yet those lesser roles are just as significant. Where will history measure you on that continuum?

Finally, we need to understand that Jesus is alive. He is real and that he is the only hope of our getting into Heaven. [John 14:6; Acts 16:31] We need to grasp that truth today and hold on for all that we are. Jesus has provided us a way; his resurrection assured us of immortality of the soul. Alleluia! Follow his path. He is risen!

Kenneth A. Bales, KCT, G.P.