



Pennsylvania Crusader

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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Greetings Sir Knights:

February is upon us. We Pennsylvanians are very familiar with the story and celebration of Groundhog Day. Permit me to share a similar event in meaning – the halfway point of Winter Solstice and the Spring Equinox – from my Irish heritage that has some Christian background and Templar values.

St. Brigid’s Day in Ireland is celebrated on the evening of Feb 1st and ends on the evening of Feb 2nd. Saint Brigid is Ireland’s great female patron saint. Brigid was born in Ireland in 450 AD and was a disciple of St. Patrick, who baptized her parents, then her.

As a young child Brigid had compassion for the poor, giving away food and clothing and even her father’s possessions. She has had many miracles attributed to her regarding healing and feeding the poor.



Saint Brigid



Saint Brigid Cross

The legend of her cross is quite interesting. An old pagan chieftain lay on his deathbed. Brigid came to visit and console. On the floor of the house laid rushes - typical in Irish homes. As she weaved the rushes together, she explained the meaning of the cross to the chieftain. It is said that her calming words brought peace to his soul. He was so enamored with this, that he requested to be baptized before his death and converted to Christianity.

Since that day and over the centuries in Ireland, it is customary to

create a St. Brigid Cross on Feb 1st from either rushes or straw.

Once the cross is woven, it is blessed with holy water and a blessing is said and then placed inside the house over a door. The blessing is:

‘May the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost be on this Cross and on the place where it hangs and on everyone who looks on it.’

The cross is hung throughout the year and is meant to keep out, evil, fire and hunger from the home.

Sir Knights, I chose this message because of the time of this writing. It is early December as I write this the pandemic is spreading again, and things are shutting down. I hope and pray that you and your family stay safe and are protected throughout this next spread and that this message may give you some peace in today’s world. God Bless.

I leave you with a common Irish greeting regarding St. Brigid:

“Brid agus Muire dhuit” (Brigid and Mary be with you).

Yours in Templary,
Sean M. Tomasic
REGC

A Letter from the Grand Prelate:

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. Psalm 91:1 (NIV)

Do you have a secret place where you can go to get away from it all? Sometimes that place is referred to as a “man cave.” But to experience the promises of Psalm 91, you need to dwell in the “secret place of the Most High”— you need to spend some time alone in fellowship with God. Not with your buddies watching a ball game in your “man cave.” Instead, set aside some time to be in God’s miraculous presence. Then you won’t be bogged down with the lesser things of life and you’ll begin to trust and know God’s protection, provision and blessing.

Heavenly Father, my prayer this day is that you will help me set aside time to be with you and that your guidance will become prevalent in my life.

Rev. S.K. Orville R. Jones, HPC, IKT, GP