



Pennsylvania Crusader

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA

pagrandcommandery.org

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Mark G. Mattern, Grand Commander

Greetings Sir Knights,

It is my great honor to serve as your Grand Commander for this coming Templar year. I am looking forward to the challenge of getting back on track, meeting in person, making new Sir Knights, while still utilizing the tools that were made available to us during the pandemic.

My theme this Templar year is “Make a Statement, Take a Stand”. Find something that you believe in and help to make it better.

Sir Knights this Templar year has been most challenging. We have said goodbye to some family and of what is happening around us with this pandemic, but we have also persevered and stood tall. Now more than ever the world needs good spiritual values to believe in. Values similar to our Christian values that can help us all join together as one voice to eliminate hate and promote tolerance, understanding, friendship, and Brotherly love toward all mankind. With Easter just a few months ago the holiday should remind us all that this world can rise up to be a better place, but that won't happen if we don't try to change hearts and minds so they can see the light from above.

Our Masonic Youth Groups can use our help as well. If you have the time to give, I know they would appreciate it. Just having visitors there to see the work they are doing and the progress they have made can be a big boost for them. The Holy Land Pilgrimage and Knights Templar Eye Foundation are very worthy charities that we already support.

I now want to challenge all of the Constituent Commanderies. Knights Templar and Freemasonry are all famous for the financial contributions we make around the world. We also have youth groups that help our young men and women gain skills that can help them be the leaders of tomorrow. That is why I want to honor another great philanthropy that is



run by students. THON, the dance marathon run by the students at Penn State University is the largest student run philanthropy in the world. This great organization raises money every year for Childhood Cancer Treatment and Research through the Four Diamonds Fund. They have raised millions of dollars for this endeavor and they deserve our help as well. I will be sending out more information in a separate communication about this challenge.

Sir Knights, together we can recover from this pandemic and the virtual world we were forced to exist in. We can make this world a better place one step at a time. We can come back out into the light in the hope that one day our swords will be beaten into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks; that nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. We can Make a Statement and Take a Stand!

Yours in Templary,
Mark G. Mattern, REGC

A Letter from the Grand Prelate:

St. John's Day, June 24

“The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.” Luke 1:80

Brethren, we celebrate St. John the Baptist on June 24, which is coming up very shortly this month. John had become a dynamic, no-nonsense person, a man of strong conviction. What happened to him during that time in the desert?

It was a lonely place of solitude. John did not have other people to lean on; he had to rely on God. John could hardly help but see how God was his true comfort and companion. He came to accept his gifts and to know that they were not of his own making. John learned of his greatness in the wilderness, and he also learned of his littleness.

We all need some solitude to be alone with ourselves and God. We too, need the wilderness so we do not hide from God ourselves.

“God of the wilderness teach me who I am. Lead me into solitude and speak to my heart.”

God's blessings,
Rev. S.K. Robert A. Witmyer, Grand Prelate