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*“If the only prayer you said was thank you, that would be enough.”
Meister Eckhart*

Greetings Sir Knights,

Well, March is here. Another Templar year is behind us. My, don't they go by in a blink! Despite the tragedy and challenges lain before us in 2020, the Good Work goes on.

It is the end of my tenure as Grand Commander and I can say it's been a Journey. For an additional year, I have had the honor to be friends with two truly grand men, Most Excellent Grand High Priest Tom Bridges and Most Illustrious Kevin Wood. Gentlemen, I am a better man just by having known you.

I owe a great debt to the Sir Knights of this state. You have supported me, even opposed me in true gentlemanly and brotherly ways. You have stepped up to the challenge and kept this ship afloat through uncharted and treacherous waters.

But now is time for rebuilding and renewal. Later this month we will hold a virtual Conclave where we will elect officers, set policy, and make decisions that will influence our path forward for generations. I hope you will be a part of that with us.

To my Officers and District Officers, thank you. You have shown me that navigating dark waters is only possible with a worthy crew. This year has challenged us, and you rose to meet it with teeth set and a firm grip. Many continued reaching out, keeping the Brothers engaged and involved. I hope you know how vitally important that is. I am hopeful for the future in the hands of so many committed and competent men who have a Templar Heart and Drive that will push us ahead and create something to enable our grandchildren to continue the Good Work.

Just an update on what you have done this year: You added 140 knightings in 2020. We implemented the resurrected the Knights Templar Education Fund, fortifying it with \$115,000.00 and dispersed \$6,000.00 in scholarships to worthy students. You continued to support the Holy Land Pilgrimage. Your donations raised, in total, over \$25,000.00 for the Pilgrimage. We watched miracles happen as we saw three struggling Commanderies rebound from unbeing able to meet, who are now active thriving.

We formed a new Commandery U.D. in Southern Pines, which we hope will be formalized at the Annual Conclave. This is remarkable. To see men band together, in times like these, despite the overall decline in membership in some areas, and wish to carry on the work in their communities and support it with such enthusiasm is truly astounding. They will serve a need in a geographic area where we are a bit thin and far away.

I am glad to see new technology making its way into our bodies and am surprised at the eagerness with which you have embraced it. It will help keep us together now and will help us stay a vibrant and relevant force in our communities.

All this was your doing.

Thank you for being so supportive and eager to do the Good Work. I can again truly say that I have had the time of my life.

With all Fraternal fondness and deepest respect,

-Michael Daniels Grand Commander, 2019-2021

“Enjoy the little things, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things.” – Robert Brault