

OHIO SUPPLEMENT



SK R. Thomas Starr, KCT
Right Eminent Grand Commander
March 2021



We are well into the Lenten season in the Christian liturgical calendar, a time of personal sacrifice as a commemoration of the time Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness and avoiding Satan's temptations as chronicled in Matthew 4: 1-11 and Luke 4: 1-13.

As we await the arrival of Easter Sunday on April 4, I find myself thinking frequently about the sacrifices we have made over the past year. Certainly, no one could have predicted that virtually every aspect of our lives would be impacted by the coronavirus pandemic in the manner that it has and still does. These sacrifices have been difficult. We have chosen to limit the time we spend in the company of family and friends. We have opted not to travel and deny ourselves many personal liberties we have taken for granted. In the case of our beloved Templar fraternity, we have conducted only virtual meetings since last spring.

At some point, we will have the luxury of looking back at this time retrospectively and asking if all the precautions we have taken were necessary. Our decisions will be viewed through the prism of hindsight but, in truth, we can only make them with the best information we have available at the time. I am not disappointed that we missed Stated Conclaves during the pandemic. I am disappointed that we have been unable to share our beautiful Orders with Brothers and Companions. At a time when we needed to be reminded most about the faith and comfort a relationship with Jesus Christ brings, which is prolific in our Commandery Orders, we have been unable to share that message with our candidates and fraters. Still, believers in the Word know that things will get better. The onset of springtime is near and with it the arrival of the message of Easter. It was the darkest time in those days with the crucifixion of our Savior, but news of the resurrection and ultimately the ascension of Jesus with the promise that HE WILL COME AGAIN eases our pain and provides the boost that we need to push through the difficult times.

One of the highlights I have experienced as Grand Commander is the presentation of a 70-year member award to Sir Knight Donald S. Judisch, Past Commander of Canton No. 38. SK Don and his family were gracious to invite us into his home for the presentation. I thoroughly enjoyed visiting with Don. He remains active; Don was working on an outdoor electrical project the day we met him. He is an accomplished Mason and distinguished himself working with our youth in Scouting.

In the accompanying photos, as Don holds the veteran member plaque we presented him, I am holding a photo of Don in uniform as Eminent Commander of Canton No. 38 when he served in 1957-58. That picture can be seen on the inset right. Don is Canton's oldest surviving Past Commander. I was accompanied that day by SK David Becker, EC and SK Randy Hahn, Sr., Recorder of Canton 38, as well as SK Larry Haines, Division Commander of the North Central Division, and I thank them for making this presentation possible.



Don told us he was humbled and honored to receive the member service award from the Grand Commandery of Ohio. I was too, to meet him.

In Knightly Courtesy,
R. Thomas Starr

R. Thomas Starr, KCT, Grand Commander