



Pennsylvania Crusader

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA

pagrandcommandery.org

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Greetings Sir Knights:

The Lenten season is upon us. The word “Lent” comes from the old English “**lencten**,” which means spring.

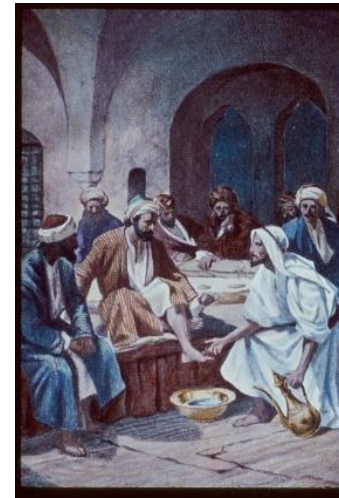
Although there are a few theories on Lents’ origin, there is evidence that by 340 A.D, Lent is universal in the Christian world. This year Lent began on February 17 and will end on April 3. The purpose of Lent is to prepare Christians for Easter. Lent is traditionally described as lasting 40 days.

During Lent, Christians reflect, pray, fast, and abstain among other things in preparation for Easter. The last week of Lent – Holy Week I feel is one of the most comprehensive times for Christians – in particular Holy Thursday.

Holy (Maundy) Thursday is arguably next to Easter the most important day for Christians. Holy Thursday celebrates the Eucharist as the body and blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus also commanded his Apostles to teach others going forward as he taught them that day—a simple act of that day was foot-washing:

“If I then, your LORD and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his LORD; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.” John 13:14-17 KJV

In Biblical times, washing the feet was especially important in the everyday life of people. It was viewed as a task of servants. When Jesus rose from the table and began to wash the feet of his disciples, his simple act shocked them - but his humility, servanthood and love was shown:



“For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you” John 13:15 KJV

It is there Jesus left the disciples and **us** with the simple message that we can cleanse ourselves of sin. We are to love one another and help one another. Such a simple act, yet so profound.

2020 was a challenge and now so is the beginning of 2021. Sir Knights continue your quest to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and bind up the wounds of the afflicted. Love Jesus and each other. God Bless.

Yours in Templary,
Sean M. Tomasic
REGC

A Letter from the Grand Prelate:

Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown. Mark 4:20 (NIV)

The month of March is sometimes referred to as the “windy month.” It conjures up images of trees swaying in the breeze and children flying kites. During this time when the Spring planting has begun and the wind scatters the seeds across the earth, ask yourself, in what small way can I help spread the good news of Jesus? Don’t make it complicated; simply be a messenger, a seed borne by the wind, bringing God’s Word and sharing the hope he brings to others.

Father, give me the opportunity to be a sower of your Word to be planted in the hearts of others that they may know of your love and grace.

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