



# Pennsylvania Crusader

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
pagrandcommandery.org

**S.K. Mark G. Mattern, Grand Commander**

Editor: SK Mark G. Mattern email: mgmattern@gmail.com



## October 2021

Greetings Sir Knights,

Fall is upon us, although you might not know it from the weather at times. The Commeries in Pennsylvania are up and working again. We had a great One Day Conferral of Orders on August 28<sup>th</sup> at Reading Commandery No 9. All the Sir Knights involved did a great job and we made 55 new Sir Knights, and one Sir Knight service K-9, maybe the first in Pennsylvania (don't worry, I talked with him and he said he won't tell anything).

The officers were getting lots of questions afterward from these new Sir Knights about how to get uniforms and what is next. When they get back to their home Commandery don't let them sit still. Get them working and keep that excitement moving forward. You can also look at the updated [Membership](#) page on the Grand Encampment website for more ideas to use for attracting and welcoming new members.

Please keep an eye on my schedule that is posted on the Grand Commandery website <https://pagrandcommandery.org/download/specail-events/REGC-Mattern-Schedule-2021-2022.pdf> as it changes from time to time. We have many events coming up, the Northeast Section Receptiuon on October 24, the Line Officers Seminar November 12-13, the Southeast Section Reception on January 8, Christmas Observances, joint conclaves, conferral of Orders at individual Commanderies, and much more.

Sir Knights there is still time to help with My Statement and My Stand with the studeent leaderrship for THON at Penn State University. Donations can be made anytime, but I would like to have most of them together by the end of January so we can arrange to present everything collected prior to the big THON event. What a great way to support these student leaders and help a great charity, [The Four Diamonds](#), right here in Pennsylvania with finding a cure for pediatric cancer. And don't forget the Mini-THON's held all over the state at schools in your area.

As a reminder, this supplement will not be found in the Knight Templar magazine any longer, but you can still find it on the Grand Encampment website at <https://www.knightstemplar.org/KTnews/> and on the Grand Commandery website under [Events/Announcements](#).

Yours in Templary,  
Mark G. Mattern, REGC

A Letter from the Associate Grand Prelate:

To all valiant knights of Pennsylvania wherever dispersed: grace and peace be unto you from our Lord Jesus Christ.

Recently, I was invited to preach at another congregation than the one I serve. This year their pastor was following an older 1-year lectionary, so the readings I would have had prepared at my congregation were not what he had planned, so I had an opportunity to jump into something other than the Gospel of St. Mark. I started preparing for this visit, and eagerly began my work, only to read St. Luke's recording of a funeral procession (Luke 7:11-17). I thought "oh no, these parishioners are going to think that it is more than a coincidence that the minister/funeral director gets the funeral story to preach about." Let's face it, most people on a Sunday morning would much like to forget the undertaker part of me, and focus on life, not death!

But how far from the Gospel message it is that this passage could be about death, even though the outward appearance is sad, burdensome, and filled with grief. Jesus stops the dirge to the grave with a touch of the bier. He then speaks the voice of life to the gathered saying, first to the widowed grieving mother, "do not weep," and then to the dead boy "young man I say to you, arise." AND HE DID!

We often forget how much of the Gospel reveals to us the very opposite of what we perceive in life. Yet, at every turn (even when we've read some passages over and over again) there is life in the face of death, love conquering hate, freedom breaking persecution, faith destroying despair, and abundance washing over scarcity. The moment Jesus encountered this particular death, he revealed his power, purpose, and authority. Just by simply crossing His path, this funeral procession becomes the visible sign of God's compassion made flesh in Christ Jesus! He is Lord of the living and the dead. Yes, that's a phrase we hear a lot. But pause for a moment and ponder what it means in light of this passage. It truly means that neither death nor life can impede his purpose, his compassion, and his love for all who would believe. He is Lord, whether we live or whether we die!

That, my dear fellow knights, is a proclamation that requires no seminary training, nor special pulpit from which to speak. It is that moment, that encounter with God, that can change everything. It is that moment when we understand what it means to be a Christian, a follower of Jesus Christ, and in our magnanimous order, one who has pledged to defend the faith, and all the faithful. How could you possibly claim these truths if you did not have such a profound relationship with the one true God revealed by the Gospels to be Jesus Christ?

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI wrote "Christianity is not an intellectual system, a collection of dogmas, or a moralism. Christianity is an encounter, a love story; it is an event." Many pathways may have led us to Christianity, some have been intellectual systems or groups founded on morals and goodness. But, make no mistake, it takes a real encounter with truth, love, and life to decide to wear the cross of our savior, and to pledge our life with faith. Imagine yourself standing in the place of the grieving widow and the abundance of faith that must have ignited from that one encounter. Perhaps we can vividly portray HIS life through ours if we lived everyday as if we too, were called from death back to life!

Blessings to you in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit! AMEN.

The Rev. Dr. S.K. Nathan Corl Minnich  
Associate Grand Prelate

