



# Pennsylvania Crusader

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
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## April 2022

Greetings Sir Knights,

This year is passing by much faster than I wish it had. We find ourselves approaching the remembrance and celebration of one of the most incredible events in history occurring in the Holy Land. The Easter Holiday is truly amazing for it fills our hearts with the joy and wonder of Jesus resurrection, not to mention the smiles and excitement of seeing our children searching for Easter eggs and baskets filled with candy.

In an effort to assist ministers with participation in the journey to the Holy Land, I have commissioned a Holy Land Pilgrimage jewel. The proceeds will be placed in the Holy Land Pilgrimage Endowment fund to assist with growing this fund here in Pennsylvania. The jewel will be presented for a donation of \$250.00, which can be done all at once or in increments of \$50.00. Watch for my General Order No. 13 for more information on how to assist in this project and obtain one of these beautiful jewels.

Many of you have heard that we sold out of the first order of 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Malta jewels. We have just been restocked with another 300 jewels just waiting to be displayed on the uniform of our Sir Knights. Those jewels are \$20.00 a piece and the proceeds benefit Pennsylvania DeMolay. You can contact me or Sir Knight Harry J. Smith, GDC, for information or to purchase the jewel(s).

It has been wonderful travelling around the state and meeting with Sir Knights, Ladies and guests. I still have a few more visits to go and the memories will last a lifetime. Lady Jodi and I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Conclave being held May 19-22, at the Marriott on Penn Square, in Lancaster. I hope you can make the journey and be with us for this great event.

As we are beginning to get back to some semblance of normalcy and meet in person again, please keep in your prayers those who are unable to make the journey outside, those that have left us to wait for the time when we will be united again in Heaven, and all those that serve this country every day protecting us at home and abroad.

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.

Often, we are pushed through seasons of the Christian year so fast, that we forget just how important the various observances are for our faith, and faithfulness. Now, think about it for just a moment. The liturgical season in which we find ourselves right now, in April 2022 is the culmination of Lent, the Triduum, and the onset of the Easter Season! Now, for some, it doesn't seem like a lot. However, if, like all faithful clergy, you would walk with them through every observance this season, you might understand just how many details of our faith are contained in such a short period of time.

One struggle that many clergy claims is the difficulty in holding back the Christmas songs in the four weeks of Advent, reminding the faithful that Christmas is a full season that begins with the vigil (or Christmas Eve) service. But so much more so, I think, we miss the richness of this current season when we only observe the Sundays among these weeks. There is particular beauty in all of the parts of these magnificent days, which truly contain the pivotal moment in salvation history. If one would skip through Lent to Easter and never take seriously our faithful obligation to be present at the reading of the Holy Word and the partaking of the blessed Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ, an empty void would develop!

First, Lent presents us with the opportunity of adding to our weekly routine, and not simply giving up something along the way. Wednesday observance of prayer or communion will draw us ever closer to the joy of our faith, break up our weekly habits, and let us pray. Beyond that time of Lent, we are now in those final moments of great mystery! Holy Week brings to us the fullness of the resurrection day, but also begs us to walk with Jesus on that difficult and painful journey. How much sweeter then is the breaking of the new day, the sweetest first-fruit of the dead, a risen Christ!

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday should truly be one unending period of worship for the church. And for those of us willing to wear His cross upon our uniforms, so should our devotion be to Him, a life-long period of worship! To sit at table with the sacrament of his institution, to gaze upon the rough and painful cross of calvary, and to sit silently by the stone-cold slab and deafening stone which sealed the grave, will focus our worship on actual moments in time, and maybe help us to connect therein as participants and witnesses. The great Hallelujah of Easter rings so much more joyfully when the silence of Lent and the Triduum has brought us to that morning with contrite hearts, somber reflections, and hope that life will win triumphantly!

Don't let moments of profound faith-formation pass you by this, or any, season of the liturgical year! Be present in all the work of the church's liturgy and draw closer to the truth of our Lord's passion. Our hope is sure as St. Paul reminds us, that because He lives, we too shall live! For if we have been united in with Him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His!

Christ is risen, and he has brought life and immortality to light, that whosoever would believe in him, would rise at his command on the last day, when the trumpet shall sound, and the glory of Christ will reign supreme!

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