

# Connecticut

S.K. Craig R. Nelson, Sr.  
Grand Commander



# Knightly News

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## Grand Commander's Message

Sir Knights,

As we proceed through the month of March, my thoughts begin to turn toward the season of Spring. The days are getting longer and the weather is usually a bit warmer than the two previous months.

The month of March contains two significant events for Knights Templar. The first of these is on March 2. This is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. The purpose of Lent is to remind us of the forty days that Jesus Christ spent in the wilderness. It is a time of reflection and repentance in preparation for the celebration of Easter Sunday. When I was young, we used to "give up" something as a sign of penitence. As I grew older, we were taught to "do something" extra, such as attend church more often than just on Sunday, spend more time in prayer, or perform some charitable events. As Christians, we should reflect upon the ultimate sacrifice that Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ made for us on Good Friday and prepare for the glorious day of His resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The other significant event for Knights Templar in March is the anniversary of the execution of Jacques de Molay, the last Grand Master of the ancient Knights Templar. After the arrest of the Templars on October 13, 1307 by King Philip of France, de Molay remained in prison, under false charges, until he was burned at the stake on March 18, 1314. This brought the apparent end of the Order which had existed for two hundred years. However, Templary still lives on in us today. Although we do not brandish our swords as did our ancient brethren, we still answer the ancient charge "to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and bind up the wounds of the afflicted". And thus we continue the good works started by the ancient Sir Knights so long ago.

Stay safe, be well and God bless.

Courteously,  
SK Craig R. Nelson, Sr.  
Grand Commander