

Grand Commandery, Knights Templar Massachusetts & Rhode Island

Knight Templar State News
New Year March 2022



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March 2022

Greetings Sir Knights,

March is a time of preparation. We begin to make plans for the spring and summer. We hope it is time to retire the snow blower and shovels. We plan the work in the garden and plan on how to arrange the flowers. We plan on how we will spend our time outside when the weather is more temperate. We as Knights Templar are planning our orders, and inspections. The nominating committees in our Commanderies should be forming to work on preparing the slate of officers for next year. However, we should remember that we are also preparing for Easter. It is a time for penitential preparation. A common tradition is to deprive ourselves of something we normally have and enjoy for forty days. We do so in commemoration of the forty days Jesus fasted in the desert prior to starting his public ministry.

We no longer wear the sack cloth but we do still sprinkle ourselves in ashes in some traditions. My family and I always like to balance the giving something up, with adding something to our day to day to remind us of the season, and the grief at the loss of Jesus. However, it also reminds us of the joy of his resurrection.

I want to ask every Sir Knight in our jurisdiction to choose something in this time before Easter to do that reminds us of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and the gift of his resurrection. To do something every day to help improve the life of someone else. A simple gesture of kindness, a call or an email to an old friend. A visit to a sick friend in the hospital or assisted living. Make your season of preparation a season of caring for our fellow humans. Go out of your way to

help someone and be a strong support in a time of need. Understand that by making even one person's life better you improve the world. By being inclusive and welcoming you show people the light we always talk about in our ritual. You live the values we hold so sacred. People need to be welcomed and accepted, not excluded because they are different. By doing these small acts of kindness you accomplish the tasks Jesus laid out for us.

"The King will reply, truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these Brothers and Sisters of mine you did for me." Mathew 25:40

I wish you all a blessed and peaceful Lenten season.

Yours in Christ,

Sir Knight Peter A. Mooradian

IN HOC SIGNO VINCES

March Message from the Prelate's Corner

Greetings my brothers,

This being the first time that I have addressed you; I ask your indulgence for a short time. This is a curious time of year, because for our ancient brethren, the multitude that built Solomon's Temple, this month marks the beginning of a new year. My blue Lodge just completed the conferring of the Fellow Craft degree. I am certain that all of you are familiar with the prayer at the reception for that degree. As I sat in the Lodge, listening to the Chaplains words, they took on, for me at least, new meaning. "...And now abidith faith, hope and charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

During this past holiday season, very few of us needed to be reminded to think of others. Many of us went out of our way to volunteer in food kitchens, or worked to provide a plentiful Christmas for those in need. Every one of us gave in some way or another. But with the passage of time, the good intentions of the season fade. We become embroiled in our lives, consumed by the challenges of work and family. Make no mistake, these challenges are indeed important, but while we wrangle with these aspects of our lives, other areas fall to the wayside.

During the Holidays many food pantries and aid societies are flush with donations and volunteers. They are able to provide the assistance for which they are renowned. However, as the days pass, and the weeks slip by, the resources once again dwindle and those that depend on them, and all of us, find themselves struggling again until the next season of plenty.

Let this March serve as a new year, a new beginning, for all of us to rededicate ourselves to the lessons of the Fellow Craft degree and to the teachings of the redeemer of the world.

I'll climb down off of my soapbox now, please accept my wishes for peace and prosperity to you all.

Edward Kdonian, Associate Grand Prelate

St. Johns Commandery No. 1