



Pennsylvania Crusader

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA
pagrandcommandery.org

S.K. Mark G. Mattern, Grand Commander

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



May 2022

Greetings Sir Knights,

It has been my honor and pleasure to be your Grand Commander for this past Templar year, and what a year it has been. A year full of ups and downs, predicted and unpredicted events. I have been happy to rise to those challenges and handle them in the best interests of Templary here in Pennsylvania. I have listened and done what the majority wanted.

This year started with the passing of a wonderful Sir Knight, F. Robert Witmyer, PGC. It was my honor to be present, to assist with the service, and to comfort my friend, my Brother, S.K. and Rev. Robert Witmyer, through those difficult moments and beyond. There was also the passing of S.K. Robert M. Polander, GCG. Bob loved being part of the Grand Commandery officer line and serving his fellow Sir Knights. Also, the unexpected passing of S.K. Darrel A. Davis, Eminent Commander of Duquesne Commandery No. 72, just hours before the commandery would confer all three Orders of Knighthood. Darrel was a great guy. The Commandery held together and conferred those orders, in very fine fashion, to honor him.

In March several members of this Grand Commandery who are voting members of the Grand Encampment travelled to Fort Wayne, Indiana, to participate in the Special Conclave called by the Grand Master of Grand Encampment at the request of at least 9 Grand Commanderies. This was not a meeting to be taken lightly, or made light of. This was not a duty we would want to do or celebrate, but the system worked and a change was made for the best interest of Templary and the Grand Encampment as the members saw it (Mattern Communication 7).

There have been many positive things that came out of this year as well. 132 new Sir Knights starting with 55 at the One Day Class in August. Two Eagle Scout certificates presented. Visits to the majority of our Constituent Commanderies throughout the year. Several great conferrals of the Orders. Many very nice Christmas Observances. Almost \$13,000 raised for THON. The Holy Land Pilgrimage Jewel that has been going so fast I have already ordered more jewels. The 225th Anniversary Jewel which already sold out once, but fear not, we have more. The 68th Triennial in Minneapolis, several Grand Conclaves in other states, placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Thank you to everyone for your support and the courtesies that have been extended to Lady Jodi and I this year. We are looking forward to the Annual Conclave in Lancaster.

Two thoughts to leave you with this month...

“Let your motto then always be 'Excelsior', for by living up to it there is no such word as fail.”
Look what Stan Lee accomplished.
(I'm no just a Star Trek fan, but an Marvel Avengers fan as well.)

Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty & well preserved body, but rather to skid broadside, totally worn out & proclaiming "Wow, what a ride!"

Yours in Templary,
Mark G. Mattern, REGC

A Letter from the Associate Grand Prelate:

Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.” Luke 9:62 (NIV)

Let me begin by making a statement I am sure we can all agree with during this month when new officers are elected and appointed in our commanderies and especially our Grand Commandery. Change is part of this world we live in. There's no getting around it. As soon as we first open our eyes in the morning something will occur to change the plan we had for the day. It's inevitable. When new opportunities are presented to us may I suggest we accept them willingly and make an effort to gracefully navigate life's changes. Remain calm and seek God's help adjusting to new circumstances. Look to Him for hints of blessings to come.

Rev. S.K. Orville R. Jones, HPC, KCT, IKT, AGP

