



Pennsylvania Crusader

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA
pagrandcommandery.org

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My Fellow Fraters:

Carpe Diem!

In 1989, Comedian Robin Williams starred in the movie “Dead Poet’s Society”. Mr. Williams portrayed an English teacher at an all-boys preparatory school known for its ancient traditions. He was a quirky teacher, using unorthodox methods to reach his students amidst intense pressure from the school and parents. With his help, the students broke out of their shells and pursued their dreams, seizing the day. Hence the phrase, Carpe Diem!

At home last weekend, Lady Pauline was making the beds and a lyric from a favorite song entered my mind; “When I shiver please give me a blanket, keep me warm let me wear your coat.” That lyric from The Who’s “Behind Blue Eyes” aligns with the organizing of Clothing and Blanket Drives to aid the less fortunate and makes that song lyric come alive.

As Knights Templar in general, and particularly in Pennsylvania we have a unique opportunity to “Seize The Moment” this time of year. As farmers are bringing their respective harvests, we too should be reaping what we sow. The implementation of programs to Feed the Hungry, Clothe the Naked and Binding the Wounds of the Afflicted are (or should be) in full swing by this point and we should be identifying potential benefactors of our efforts to collect clothing, food and supplies to assist the private, no-kill animal shelters and food banks/pantries.

This is the opportune time to seize the day and make ourselves known to all for the good works we do to aid and assist the less fortunate. We want to become the Christian Organization of Choice within Freemasonry. Our noble acts will attract like-minded men to join our Order.

The Sir Knights, Ladies and Friends of Templary have been extremely generous in our fund-raising efforts. The first of many contributions to the no-kill private shelters and animal food pantries were made this past week. The Purple Paws are a hit! Thank you so much for making this happen and keeping Charlie’s memory alive with Lady Pauline and I.

Let us continue to march forward, “Seize The Day” and making the lives of the less fortunate better!

When we work together, great things are possible!

Courteously,

Sir Knight Harry Jude Smith, Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania

Grand Prelate's Message

As I read our Right Eminent Grand Commander's message I must admit I had never heard of The Who's "Behind Blue Eyes" as I listened to a different type of music. I was more into the folksier type of music such as the Hollies who gave us "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother." One of the lines in that song goes:

If I'm laden at all
I'm laden with sadness
That everyone's heart
Isn't filled with the gladness
Of love for one another

I have watched as you have, the terrible devastation and destruction of life and property because of Hurricane Ian. So much destroyed and as of this writing so much unknown as to those who may have perished. There are so many people who need our help that sometimes we become overwhelmed and think the need is so vast that there is nothing we can do alone.

I want to remind all the Sir Knights and Ladies that we are not alone. We are united in our calling to Feed the Hungry, Clothe the Naked, and Bind the Wounds of others. I am reminded of this little parable:

One windy March day the Mayor of the town decided to take a stroll across the park. He ran into a small boy who was flying the biggest and most beautiful kite he had ever seen.

It soared high and gently across the sky that the mayor was sure it could be seen in the next city. This little town didn't have very many things that were spectacular, so the Mayor decided to award a "key to the city" to the one responsible for such a beautiful thing.

"Who is responsible for flying this kite?" the Mayor asked.

"I am," said the little boy holding with all his might to the beautiful big kite. He said, "I made this huge kite myself, with my own hands. I painted all of the colorful pictures on it, and I fly it!"

"I am," said the wind. "It is my breeze that keeps it in the air flying so big and beautiful. Unless I blow on it, it will not fly at all. I fly it!"

"Not so," claimed the kite's tail. "I make it sail and give it stability against the wind's blowing gusts. Without me the kite would spin out of control and not even the boy could save it from crashing to the earth. I fly the kite!"

So, who flies the kite?
They all do, don't they?

May we reach out and help wherever we can as we all fly together and may none of us say we are saddened because we did not love one another!

Courteously,

Sir Knight and Reverend Preston A Van Dursen, Grand Prelate
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania