



Pennsylvania Crusader

Since 1948

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA
pagrandcommandery.org

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My Fellow Fraters, Templar Greetings to All!

It's September, that month we are called back to our respective Temples and Asylums to resume our labors so happily begun. Students eagerly (some not so much) return to their classrooms, campuses and dormitories to renew friendships and establish new ones. Sports teams, most notably football at the high school, collegiate and professional levels start their seasons anew with aspirations of capturing their respective championships.

As Knights Templar, we too are renewing our friendships both within our own Commanderies as well as with others outside of our Divisions, Sections and state. The Northeast Department Conference is scheduled for September 9-10, 2022 in Albany, New York. This is a tremendous opportunity for idea sharing between Grand Commanderies as well as establishing new friendships.

On Sunday September 11 we will be acknowledging a somber day in our history, the September 11, 2001 attacks on our country. We will be honoring those who paid the ultimate sacrifice at the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, Pennsylvania by placing a Wreath at the site. We will assemble at 2:45 PM for the 3:00 PM ceremony. All are invited to attend.

Sir Knights, we must remember that in addition to our organization being Fraternal we are also a business. Running a business effectively requires the timely completion and submittal of reports due the Grand Commandery as well as our obligations to report to respective Federal agencies on our performance. By not meeting these obligations we put our organization at risk of incurring fines and penalties. It is of the utmost importance that the Recorders of our Constituent Commanderies perform their assigned tasks and complete them on time. Being off labor for the Summer does not negate these responsibilities. If your Commandery is experiencing issues with the completion of reports, audits or submittals of required tax forms please contact your Division Commander, Section Officer or the Grand Recorder as soon as possible for assistance.

I am excited to be visiting Commanderies around the state again! Please refer to my Itinerary on the Grand Commandery website for when and where these visitations will be taking place. If you can attend, I'd welcome the company! Let us all continue promoting "Our Basic Tenets" of Feeding the Hungry, Clothing the Naked and Binding the Wounds of the Afflicted. Let the light of our good deeds shine upon all those that we help, aid and assist in our actions and efforts.

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

Associate Grand Prelate's Message:

Dia Duit Sir Knights,

May God be with you all wherever you are. As I write this, my two sons are having their first day of school for the year and it reminds me that when we return to labor this September, we should also renew our desire to learn. Learn about others, ourselves, and our Fraternity. Let my greeting to you be an important lesson for you this month. Dia Duit is an ancient Irish Gaelic greeting. If you put it into a translator or ask someone who speaks Irish Gaelic what it means, the answer would probably be "hello", but the literal translation is "God to you". This is how we should greet one another, asking God to be with those we meet, those we interact with and all those who see us.

Our Right Eminent Grand Commander has chosen the theme of "Our Basic Tenets" and those are very important for us as Knights Templar. In June when we called off from labor we did not, or should not, have called off from the work of aiding the world around us. When we return to our Asylums, we should return with confidence that we lived out our tenets to feed, cloth, and aid those whom God has placed in our paths.

Our duty to live out our basic tenets also includes duties to those inside our Fraternity as well as those who are not. We have a duty to support and aid our Fraters and Commanderies in our time, gifts, and finances. If we support our local Commanderies, they can support the Grand Commandery which can in turn support Grand Encampment. By supporting the Grand Encampment and Grand Commandery we support those outside these bodies. How many children can see today because of our collective support to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation? How many congregations have been blessed because of our support of the Holy Land Pilgrimage Fund has sent their minister to walk in the footsteps of Jesus Christ? How many lives have been touched because one Sir Knight or another has looked with pity on someone and offered aid?

Often it is the littlest of actions that have the greatest of impacts. A kind word, a shared meal or even a smile can change a person's day or save a life. The show of concern for others beyond ourselves can send ripples throughout the world. Our Grand Commandery has placed many wreathes on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and other memorials for those who have given their lives for others. On September 11th this year we will do it again to honor those who valiantly gave their lives to save people they did not even know by bringing down their own plane before terrorist could do so and kill unknown numbers of innocent lives. We remember the fallen and thank them and their loved ones left behind for the sacrifices made. This shows our love for one another and our country. It shows our commitment to supporting those who are left behind while respecting those who have gone before.

Let us return to labor, our friends, and our fellowship. Let us learn new things and share with others what we learn, what God has blessed us with and the love of Jesus Christ.

Courteously,

Sir Knight and Pastor Joshua A. Yorks, Jerusalem Pilgrim, Associate Grand Prelate
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania