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Grand Commandery of Delaware



Mark K. Button
Grand Commander

State News for May 2023

Greeting my Fraters!

Well, if April showers bring May flowers, then what do May flowers bring? That's right, the Pilgrims! My first 2 months as your Grand Commander are in the books, as they say, and I can honestly state that the ride is a fun one! I have visited New Jersey, Maryland and North Carolina for their elections and installations, attended Delaware's Brotherhood Night and Semi-Annual sessions, attended the Sunrise Easter Service at the George Washington Masonic Memorial and had my first Grand Visitation with Trinity Commandery #3. Everywhere I went, I was greeted and treated with the utmost courtesy and respect, and it was encouraging to see and hear the enthusiasm espoused by Sir Knights everywhere. One of my tenets for this year was to bring the enthusiasm and motivation back to all of our Commanderies and it fills my heart with pride to see and hear the energy of that effort being labored on by all.

The Bible verse Philippians 4:13 has been a source of inspiration and comfort to many people over the centuries. The scripture reads, "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me." (KJV). To many, this verse is a reminder that no matter how difficult or challenging an event or period in life may be, with God we can have the strength and courage to endure anything. This Bible verse is part of a letter written by Paul to the church of Philippi. This church had sent Paul a financial gift and he was greatly appreciative of their generosity. In his letter, he encourages the church by reminding them that God can help them in any situation and will give them strength to overcome any challenge they face. By stressing that we can do anything "through him who strengthens us" Paul was emphasizing the importance of relying on God's grace in times of trouble. Philippians 4:13 isn't just limited to moments of difficulty though. It also serves as a reminder to keep our focus on God even when things are going well for us. We should endeavor to give thanks for all our blessings regardless of what circumstances we find ourselves in – both good and bad – knowing that everything is made possible through His power alone.

So, what does Philippians 4:13 mean to you? It is important for us today to remember the meaning behind Philippians 4:13 and understand its relevance beyond just Bible context or religious belief systems. It is about having confidence that whatever we face, big or small, difficult or simple, God will always be there to aid us if we only rely on Him for His strength and wisdom. With faith in Him, nothing is impossible so let us always keep this verse close to our hearts whenever we need strength. Paul's words remind us that with God's help, we are capable of achieving great things. Great things – that is a very subjective phrase. Greatness. No matter our material stature in life, we can each make ourselves great or small by our own conduct, and by the decisions we make. We have the opportunity every day to build ourselves up in the eyes of God, our Brothers and our families. But the converse of that is each day we also have the opportunity to make bad decisions and erode our progress. Just like the gambler, a truly bad bet can wipe out all the winnings.

I hope this communication finds you all healthy and happy! We have several things in store for the coming months, to include our Encampment June 10th for the conferring of all Chivalric Order in Dover. I look forward to welcoming and knighting several new Fraters to our order. I also have some visits planned, to include a Commander's installation in Denton, Maryland, a Table Commandery at Mt Olivet Commandery in New Jersey, and an official visit to the great State of West Virginia.

With my warmest regards and respect,
DEO VOLENTE,

Mark Button, Grand Commander

Please remember our charities and support them with your contributions. The Grand Commandery has a fund set aside to provide for an all-expense paid trip to the Holy Land for ordained ministers. Your donation will help to fund this worthwhile program in the future. Donations can be made out to the Grand Commandery of Delaware and noting that it is for the Holy Land Pilgrimage and sent to the Grand Recorder.

Also, for those Sir Knights who are not already Life Members of the Knight Templar Eye Foundation, a contribution of \$30 will allow you to become one. Donations can be made through your local Commandery Recorder.