

Grand Commandery of New York

May News



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Grand Commander

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Faith

Sir Knights;

The Grand Line and other Knights from constituent Commanderies of the Grand Commandery of New York spent several days in Washing D.C. last month. The occasion was the Grand Encampments Sunrise Easter Observance held at the George Washington National Museum. The event was inspiring with several hundred Knights' Templar from around the country. If you have never attended this event, I suggest you put it on your bucket list as any Knight can attend along with their family and friends.

Easter to me marks the unofficial start of spring and symbolizes a new beginning. One of the great things about life is that there are always opportunities for new beginnings. Whether you're starting a new job, a new relationship, or a new chapter in your life—it's important to approach these fresh starts with positivity and excitement. Set goals, make plans and stay organized as you move forward towards your new beginning.

Mother's Day is May 14 and celebrates and honors the mother of the family or individual, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds and the influence of mothers in society. It is celebrated on different days in many parts of the world. Remember not only your Mother, but also the other Mothers in your life—wife, daughters, etc.

Memorial Day, May 30 (originally known as Decoration Day) is a federal holiday in the United States for mourning the U.S. military personnel who have died while serving in the United States armed forces. It is observed on the last Monday of May. From 1868 to 1970, it was observed on May 30. Many people visit cemeteries and memorials on Memorial Day to honor and mourn those who died while serving in the U.S. military. Many volunteers place American flags on the graves of military personnel in national cemeteries. Memorial Day is also considered the unofficial beginning of summer in the United States.

May's Good Works—New Beginnings

Open Conclaves using the Tactics in full form; if you haven't had your inspection yet, prepare for it; also plan on conferring Orders in your long range plan (start out small using the ability to confer the short form of the Order of the Red Cross and Order of Malta). By conferring Orders, your Commandery will grow and become strong; Program=Retention.

- Consider taking the Chaplains Course on the Grand Encampment Website. It is a life changing course even if you are not or never thought about becoming a Chaplain/Prelate
- On Memorial Day plan a Wreath Laying Event in a cemetery near your Commandery.

If you are not getting emails twice a month from Grand Commandery Constant Contact, please email Harry Williams harry.williams@marist.edu with your name, email and Commandery name and number. You will be placed on the mailing list.

“It's not something we do-it's something we are.”

Upcoming Events: June 3, Zone 3 Pilgrimage , Saugerties NY; July 29, Invitation Luncheon, Grand Commandery Knights Templar PHA of New York and Grand Commandery Knights Templar of the State of New York Recognition Luncheon. September 15-18, Annual Conclave, Crown Plaza, Desmond Hotel, 600 Albany Shaker Rd., Albany NY.

Lady Eileen and I wish all Sir Knights and their families a Happy Mother's Day

Courteously with Faith

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Grand Prelate's Corner

It seems as if everywhere we turn we observe that the culture is becoming more and more secular. Secularization is defined as, “the transformation of a society from close identification with religious values and institutions toward nonreligious values and secular institutions. The secularization thesis refers to the belief that as societies progress, particularly through modernization and rationalization, religion loses its authority in all aspects of social life and governance.”

As Christian believers we have observed this transformation of culture in media, government, education, science, entertainment, family and sadly even in the Church. The feeling of being ‘marginalized’ as Bible believing Christians is real and corresponds to reality of what is happening

around us. The Biblical world view is being silenced by the 'cultural elites'. As a Christian, you may sometimes find it difficult to practice your faith in our fast-paced, modern world. Perhaps you feel that the Bible's teachings don't align with modern-day values, or that the people around you just don't understand your belief. Well, the good news is that the core principles of Christianity – to love God and others – can still be practiced now and always.

You can also call upon many of God's teachings and parables in the Bible to help guide you through the temptations of modern-day society. It is still possible to live a life devoted to Him, even in these crazy times. In 2 Timothy 3:1-9 Paul notes the downward spiral of the Church and culture similar to what is occurring before our eyes. The root of what we are observing is the sinfulness of humanity unleashed: humanity wanting to be god, wanting self as the center of the universe, wanting religion that keeps selected truths of God's Word out of the belief system.

True believers can't have true oneness and fellowship with this kind of mindset and priority. However we are called on to respond in love. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves. We are to love those who oppose us. This love is not sentiment but intentional actions with the Word of God. We are to speak the Truth in love. Paul's answer to the decay he describes in verses 1-9 is followed by an admonition to hold fast as believers to the Word of God and to share, preach, teach, and announce God's Word to the secular culture and the Church.

The reason we must do this is due to the nature of God's Word. It is divinely powerful, authoritative and able to save and transform. God's Word is the medicine for a secular culture and church.—but as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness—that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (*2 Timothy 3:14–17*) A clear and loving communication of God's Word is the method that God uses to change people's minds and hearts from self serving to God glorifying. This passage also mentions that there will be difficulty, persecution and hostility to our overtures of God's Word. We must remain convinced, steadfast and true to the only Truth that matters—God's Truth.