



# Pennsylvania Crusader

Since 1948

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
[pagrandcommandery.org](http://pagrandcommandery.org)

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## September 2023

### *Greetings Sir Knights,*

Fall is upon us and so it starts! We have all been busy over the summer with work and family and friend reunions and picnics. Many of us have also been occupied with different Masonic activities. Now that September is here and our Commanderies are once again “back on labor”, Sir Knights are actively doing the Lord's work serving our Commandery's and our communities.

I hope you had an enjoyable summer, are once again refreshed and ready to resume our labors. We have had a productive summer with many activities and events attended. Now we must move forward and continue with our mission doing the Lord's work.

During the one-day conferral on August 26<sup>th</sup> we conferred all three Orders at Samuel S. Yohe Commandery No. 81 stationed at Stroudsburg and created a fantastic new class of Sir Knights for our Commandery's. It was a very impressive event. I thank all the Sir Knights who took part in the Conferrals for their time and the high level of skill demonstrated. I thank them for the effort they put into making this a most memorable and exciting experience for our newly created Sir Knights. The new sir knights will always remember being knighted on this day as they continue their journey through Templary.

This month our calendars will include, in addition to the conclaves and scheduled banquets, the wreath laying at the Flight 93 Memorial, the Gettysburg weekend at the Pennsylvania Memorial on the battlefield at Gettysburg and the Division 11 Reception in Gettysburg. I strongly recommend you make every effort to join us. The Gettysburg weekend is a very moving experience, and you will take away from the experience a heartfelt pride in how we honor our Fraters.

We all joined this fraternity to become better men. This is a wonderful fraternity of likeminded individuals who come together for the greater good and to make a positive impact in our lives and all those with whom we come into contact. Never forget that brotherly love and charity starts within each of us. These qualities which are extended to all will make you a better person and also those lives you have touched. I thank you and encourage you to keep up the good efforts of serving Christian Sir Knights.

### Upcoming Events

September 1	Holy Land Pilgrimage nominations due
September 8-9	North East Department Conference, Albany, NY
September 10	Flight 93 National Memorial b
September 15-17	Gettysburg Memorial Weekend
September 24	Central Section Joint Conclave & Section Reception
September 26	Joint Conclave Division 11
September 30	Grand Council Testimonial - Carlisle
October 15	Southeast Section Reception
October 22	Northeast Section Reception
October 27-29	Mass/RI Annual Grand Conclave
November 3-5	Line Officer/Division Commanders Seminar in Elizabethtown (4 <sup>th</sup> will have the Division Commander's Association Meeting and Division Commander's Banquet/Dinner)
November 4	Fall Reunion AASR
December 27	Annual grand Communication – Lancaster Marriott

### **Templar Knights in history**

Guillaume de Beaujeau was the 20th Grand Master of the Knights Templar from 1273-1291. He fought bravely and died during the siege of Acre in 1291. Legend has it; de Beaujeau threw his sword down and proceeded to walk away from the front lines. When questioned as to why he was fleeing, the Grand Master replied, I am not fleeing, I am dead. De Beaujeau's death sealed the fate of the city and Acre was lost to the Crusaders forever.

**"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16**



In His Service,  
S.K. Thomas C. Helm  
Grand Commander



## Prelate's Message

“At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat.” Matthew 12:1 Revised Standard Version

September brings with it a feeling of change. School buses once again make regular appearances on our streets, shops begin selling apple cider and pumpkin flavored everything, and the air takes on the first signs of the autumn chill. In times gone by, we would all be making preparations for the yearly harvest.

Our modern world affords us the convenience of having just about any product we could want at the click of a button and at any time of year, food included. Because of this, we have lost some of our connection with this turning of the seasons and instinctually knowing when it is time to gather. In many ways, harvest time has become, all the time.

This is not unlike what is happening in this passage from Matthew. Jesus is leading his disciples through a grainfield, and they begin to pluck the seeds and eat them, but they do so on the Sabbath, which is not the proper time. This causes some argument, and Jesus defends the disciples, pointing out that even King David's men ate what was not allowed when they hungry.

Jesus is declaring that harvest time is all the time. Of course, he is not referring to grain or any other product, but the harvest of souls.

With this expansion of when we can harvest, comes the responsibility to, like the disciples, harvest when it is needed. As followers of the cross, we should always be ready to share the message of the Gospel, to lend assistance, or to offer counsel and support, to our fellows and to those who are not yet in the fold.

The challenge for us all is to recognize when these opportunities present themselves.

It would be nice if those who were ready for the harvest stood up and waved their hands like the grain the disciples plucked, but it is far more likely that someone who needs to encounter the Word of God, will be hidden and concealed.

This makes it all the more important that we carry our personal banners of faith high and unfurled. To serve as a sign that we are ready for the harvest that is put in front of us, and when we do see that hand go up, reaching out for the help that only Jesus can give, we reach our ourselves to be his hands in the world.

In this way, we can fulfill the duties that we are given, and be a blessing to our fellow man and the world.

Courteously,  
SK Rev. Brandon P. Cooper, AGP