



Pennsylvania Crusader

Since 1948

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA
pagrandcommandery.org

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June 2024

Sir Knights,

I am truly thankful for your confidence and support in electing me to be your Grand Commander for this Templar year. Lady Rebecca and I are looking forward to this exciting adventure and spending time with Sir Knights, families, and friends throughout the jurisdiction. I will ever strive to be worthy of the trust you have placed in me. Working together, we will advance our efforts to demonstrate what it means to be true Christian Knights Templar, promoting and advancing the legacy of this great Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania begun and furthered by so many. We will build upon that legacy by sharing educational programs in our conclaves, by improving our capabilities and delivery of our ritual, and building our membership by working to inform others of what Templary is and what we value. We will set an example for others not just in our Commanderies but in our relationships with our families and communities.

My theme this year is “By the Grace of God” (Per Dei Gratia). As Knights Templar, let us demonstrate a love and respect for one another in our actions, words, and activities. We can display this by continuing to serve in our Commanderies and communities: helping feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and bind up the wounds of the afflicted. In support of this, we must demonstrate strong moral and character values whose purpose is to serve God while serving and supporting others.

The Knights Templar Eye Foundation (KTEF) continues to be one of our primary charities. Our goal is for the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania to reach 100% Life Sponsorship throughout the jurisdiction. I have selected “Project Recover” as my designated personal charity.

A Testimonial Dinner will be held at the Greensburg Country Club on Saturday, June 22, 2024. Please register for the Testimonial by June 8, 2024. We are looking forward to sharing a meal and fellowship with you. Looking ahead, the 172nd Annual Conclave is set to be at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh - Green Tree on May 30-31, 2025. More information will be forthcoming. There will be many activities and events this year and I encourage you to attend as many as possible. These include Division/Section receptions, conclaves, conferrals, and workshops among other related events where I look forward to greeting you personally. Our shared goal will be to demonstrate to all that we strive to be the best we can be and By the Grace of God we can and will succeed.

Dates for Upcoming Events: (subject to change)

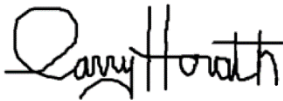
June 08, 2024 Grand Chapter Communication Johnstown
June 22, 2024 Testimonial Banquet, Greensburg Country Club Greensburg
July 12-13, 2024 Council of Deliberation Harrisburg
July 13, 2024 Tuskegee Airman Memorial Wreath Laying Sewickley
Aug 17-21, 2024 GEKT Triennial SLC, UT
Sept 6-7, 2024 NE Dept Conference Albany, NY
Sept 11, 2024 Flight 93 Wreath Laying Shanksville
Sept 20-22, 2024 NY Annual Conclave Suffern, NY
Sept 21-22, 2024 Gettysburg Memorial/Div. 11 Banquet Gettysburg
Oct 26-27, 2024 Mass/R.I. Annual Conclave TBD
Nov 8-10, 2024 Line Officers/Division Commanders Seminar Elizabethtown
Mar 1, 2025 NJ Annual Conclave Tom's River, NJ
Mar 7, 2025 DE Annual Conclave Newark, DE
Mar 29, 2025 SW Reception Pittsburgh
Apr 11-12, 2025 CT Annual Conclave Cromwell, CT
Apr 18-20, 2025 Maine Annual Conclave Portland, ME
May 10, 2025 NH Annual Conclave Concord, NH
May 30-31, 2025 172nd Annual Conclave, Doubletree Greentree Pittsburgh

June is Cataract Awareness Month. Cataract is one of the leading causes of blindness in the United States. If not treated, cataracts can lead to blindness. In addition, the longer cataracts are left untreated, the more difficult it can be to successfully remove the cataract and restore vision. Juneteenth National Independence Day, or simply Juneteenth, is a federal holiday in the United States celebrating the emancipation of African American slaves. Juneteenth became an official federal holiday on June 17, 2021.

Father's Day celebrates and honors the men who have embraced the essential role of fatherhood. On this day, we acknowledge and express our thanks to fathers and father figures for the sacrifices they make, for embracing the responsibility of nurturing and raising children, and for their devotion to their families. Father's Day is celebrated annually on the third Sunday in June.

Anniversaries: Pittsburgh No. 1 - June 21, 1847 St. John's No. 4 - June 10, 1819
Lancaster No. 13 – June 11, 1856 Palestine No. 14 – June 20, 1856
Kedron No. 18 – June 23, 1860 Hugh De Payens No. 19 – June 14, 1860
Lewistown No. 26 – June 11, 1867 Calvary No. 37 – June 16, 1870
Huntingdon No. 65 – June 20, 1888 Nativity No. 71 – June 9, 1892
Duquesne No. 72 – June 15, 1892 Shamokin No. 77 – June 23, 1896
Chartiers No. 78 – June 21, 1898 Damascus No. 95 – June 12, 1924
Mizpah No. 96 – June 12, 1924 Bethel No. 98 – June 23, 1925

Courteously,



SK Larry D. Horath
Grand Commander

Grand Prelate's Message

You can learn things being around children. Here are some truths one father learned:

1. There is no such thing as childproofing your house.
2. You should not throw baseballs up when the ceiling fan is on.
3. A ceiling fan can hit a baseball a long way.
4. Glass windows (even double pane) don't stop a baseball hit by a ceiling fan.
5. If you use a waterbed as a home plate while wearing baseball shoes, it does not leak. It explodes.
6. A king-size waterbed holds enough water to fill a 2,000 sq. ft. house almost 4 inches deep.
7. When you hear the toilet flush and the words "uh-oh," it is already too late.
8. Play-Doh and microwave ovens should never be used in the same sentence.
9. Super Glue is forever.
10. No matter how much Jell-O you put in the pool, you still can't walk on water.
11. Pool filters do not like Jell-O.
12. Always look in the oven before you turn it on.
13. The spin cycle on the washing machine does not make earthworms dizzy.
14. It will, however, make cats dizzy.
15. Cats throw up twice their body weight when dizzy.
16. A good sense of humor will get you through most problems in life. Unfortunately, mostly in retrospect. (1)

Raising children has never been easy. It is life's most joyous task; it is also life's most demanding task.

Let's look at some scripture—John 15: 12, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." It is a short text, but it is a powerful one for families. The first thing we might notice is that love is not a feeling—it is a command. Love is not something you do when you feel like it. Love is a way of life. Love combines attitudes and actions, commitment and conduct. This is so important. Christ's command is that we are to love one another as Christ loved us. If you think about it, that is a demanding standard. That means that love is an action. How did Christ love us? He laid down his life. You and I would prefer to define love as a warm and fuzzy emotion. But you can't command an emotion. If I held a gun to your head and said, "Get happy!" The best you could do is fake it. And even then, you probably wouldn't be very convincing. But Jesus is commanding us to love one another as he loved us. He isn't talking about an emotion. No, the love Jesus is talking about is a decision. It is a decision to humble ourselves. It is a decision to give up our own self-interests. It is a decision to let go of our own agendas. It is a decision to stay faithful, even in the face of pain. It is a decision to give of ourselves, even when we don't feel like it. This is the kind of love Jesus had for us, and it's the kind of love He commands us to have for one another. Jesus commands us to love as he loves.

Love is also setting moral guidelines. In 1987, Harvard professors James Q. Wilson and Richard J. Herrnstein came to similar conclusions in their book "*Crime and Human Nature*," they determined that the cause of crime is a lack of proper moral training among young people during the morally formative years, particularly ages one to six. (2) Moral training of children takes work. It takes time. It takes patience. That's why love is a command. We are to pay the price of helping young people to grow morally, emotionally and spiritually. One unknown mother put it this way:

"If I live in a house of spotless beauty with everything in its place, but have not love, I am a housekeeper—not a homemaker. If I have time for waxing, polishing, and decorative achievements, but have not love, my children learn cleanliness—not godliness. Love leaves the dust in search of a child's laugh. Love smiles at the tiny fingerprints on a newly cleaned window. Love wipes away the tears before it wipes up the spilled milk. Love picks up the child before it picks up the toys. Love is present through the trials. Love reprimands, reproves, and is responsive. Love crawls with the baby, walks with the toddler, runs with the child, then stands aside to let the youth walk into adulthood. Love is the key that opens salvation's message to a child's heart. Before I became a mother I took glory in my house of perfection. Now I glory in God's perfection of my child. As a mother, there is much I must teach my child, but the greatest of all is love. This is a mother who loves as Christ loves. Love is a command, not a feeling." (3) We love with affection, encouragement and moral guidance.

Loving God, you loved us so much that you gave us your Word and your Son. May we this day recognize and experience your love in all we do. Amen.

Rev. SK Orville R. Jones, GP, HPC, KCT, IKT

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1. From the Internet. Source unknown.
 2. CHRISTIANITY TODAY, August 16, 1993, p. 30.
 3. From the Internet. Source unknown.