

Grand Commandery of New Mexico State Newsletter May 2025

E. Hans Schmidt

Right Eminent Grand Commander

Sir Knights,

I am honoured to have been elected as your Right Eminent Grand Commander for the 2025/26 term. The recent Gand session were outstanding, largely due to the efforts of our Annual Sessions chair, Sir Knight Harry W. Jenkins II, and all committee members. I would also like to extend my gratitude to our Past Grand Commander James E. Bungard for his leadership during the previous term, and to our Past Illustrious Grand Master, Adam L. Hathaway. The leaders from the 2024/25 year collaborated effectively, significantly benefiting York Rite Masonry across New Mexico. I thank R:.E:. Craig L. Flagtwet for his attendance at our sessions and anticipate relying on his expertise throughout the coming year. Additionally, I express appreciation to all PGCs in New Mexico for their continued service to the Grand Commandery. A special note of thanks is extended to those who have agreed to serve on our Committees this year.

We are planning fundraising events to support the Holy Land Pilgrimage and Knights Templar Eye Foundation, with further details forthcoming. I also encourage all commanderies to strive for 100% participation in the Knight Templar Eye Foundation.

As we recently observed Easter, celebrating the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we now look forward to the Ascension. As Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of New Mexico, we embody the virtues of faith, hope, and charity. In this spirit, we reflect upon the Ascension of Jesus Christ, a cornerstone of Christian belief that inspires us to aim for higher ideals and unwavering commitment to our mission.

The Ascension, celebrated on the 40th day after Easter, marks when Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven before His disciples, having triumphed over death through His Resurrection. This event, detailed in the Acts of the Apostles, signifies Christ's glorification and eternal union with God the Father. It reminds us of His promise to send the Holy Spirit, empowering His followers to continue His work on Earth.

For us as Sir Knights, the Ascension symbolizes spiritual elevation and divine purpose. Just as Christ fulfilled His destiny through His Ascension, we are called to rise above earthly challenges and dedicate ourselves to serving God, our fellow man, and the principles of the Order.

Let us draw inspiration from this profound event, renewing our dedication to righteousness and excellence in all our endeavours. May the Ascension guide us in our journey as defenders of faith and bearers of light.

As stated in my first general order, it is crucial for all to attend an Ascension service, whether locally, virtually, or within our own commanderies.

In closing, I look forward to working with you in the coming year and endeavouring to serve to the best of my abilities.

God bless you all, “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” - Philippians 4:7