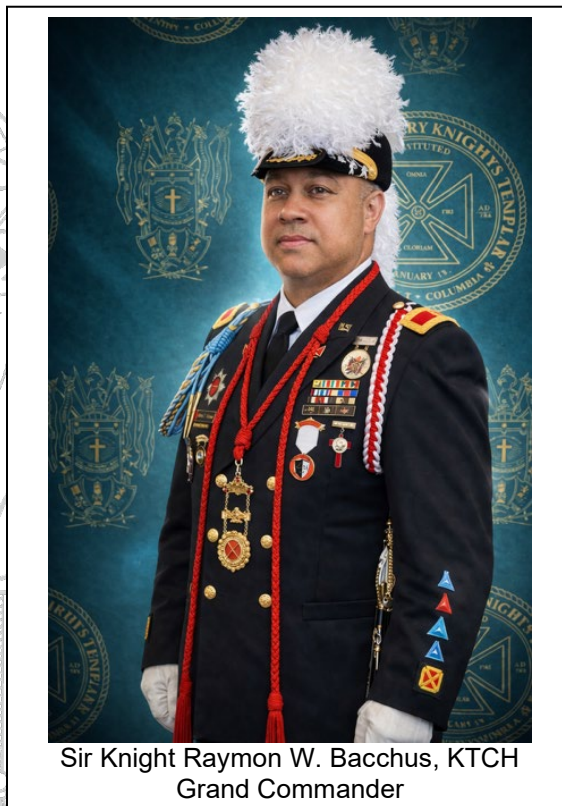


Grand Commandery Knights Templar of the District of Columbia

Monthly Knight Templar Magazine Supplement Message – April 2026

Editor: Sir Knight Carter L. Diggs, REPGC



Sir Knight Raymon W. Bacchus, KTCH
Grand Commander

Greetings Sir Knights,

As we embark upon the 2026–2027 Chivalric Year, I extend my deepest appreciation for the trust you have placed in me to serve as your Grand Commander. April marks the true beginning of our journey, a moment to gather our strength, renew our commitment, and set our course with purpose, dignity, and devotion, guided by our principles of Faith, Virtue, Honor, Courage, and Charity.

This will be a year grounded in Faith, guided by Virtue, lived with Honor, strengthened by Courage, and expressed through Charity. Our theme for this year, Building Bonds, is more than a slogan. It is a call to action and a reflection of our collective responsibility to uplift one another, strengthen our Commanderies, and exemplify the virtues of Christianity in all that we do.

Our motto is Dux Servit: A Leader Serves. That is the standard we set for ourselves. I am reminded of a sentiment inspired by Captain Charity Adams of the United States Army during World War II: “We as Masons don’t have the luxury to be as good as the profane or even as good as other Masons. We have the burden to be better. Better than yesterday. Better.” Knighthood is not a privilege of comfort. It is a burden of example.

Grand Commandery Knights Templar of the District of Columbia

The Easter season surrounds us with the spirit of hope, renewal, and steadfast faith. These lessons resonate deeply within Templary, reminding us that no matter how turbulent the world may become, the light of Christ's teachings continues to guide us toward truth and upright living. As we begin our labor in the Chivalric Quarries, this season calls us inward, to renew our commitment to virtue and to approach our duties with humility and purpose.

On Sunday, 5 April at 8:00 a.m. ET, our Annual Easter Sunrise Service will be held at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive in Alexandria, Virginia. This is a beautiful and meaningful observance, and I encourage you to attend with your family if you are able. Washington Commandery will also host and present both Easter and Ascension Day programs at their Stated Conclave on 8 April. I look forward to sharing these moments of reflection and fellowship with you.

This month also marks the beginning of the important duties carried out by your Grand Commandery Officers. Their responsibilities include maintaining quarterly communication with the Sir Knights of this jurisdiction, conducting quarterly visits to each Commandery, and identifying worthy candidates for York Rite leadership development programs. These efforts are undertaken quietly but faithfully; not to burden the membership, but to serve it, ensuring that every Sir Knight remains connected to the life of the Grand Commandery and that each Commandery receives the attention and support it deserves.

As Brother Charles Richard Walk so clearly expressed, "What is Freemasonry? We're a group of men who meet on the level, act upon the square, and walk uprightly in life. We take good men and make them better by the teachings of Masonry, and work towards brotherly love, relief, & truth." That definition captures our aspiration. Aspiration, however, demands effort. These words call us to a standard worthy of our Order, reminding us that our influence is measured not only by what we do, but by how consistently we live what we profess.

Let us begin this year with hearts open to growth, minds prepared for labor, and spirits strengthened by unity. May this April serve as the foundation upon which we build a year of service, purpose, and enduring brotherhood.

With all Knightly Courtesy, sincerely and fraternally yours in friendship and service,

Ray

Raymon W. Bacchus
Grand Commander
Direct Line: 1-703-899-8590

Motto: Dux Servit: A Leader Serves

Theme: Building Bonds

Guide: FAITH · VIRTUE · HONOR · COURAGE · CHARITY - A year grounded in Faith, guided by Virtue, lived with Honor, strengthened by Courage, and expressed through Charity.