



# GRAND COMMANDERY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR FOR THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

JUNE 2026 MESSAGE  
SK GEORGE R. SAUNDERS REGC

Sir Knights,

Easter, with the miracle of the resurrection, has past. The Ascension was celebrated on May 14, which is the end of the Easter season. Pentecost was on May 24, this year. Pentecost for Christians culminates the celebration and work of the church begun on Easter Day. On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit in a special way. The story in Acts 2 describes a powerful wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast.

In much of early Christianity, Easter Day (not Pentecost) became the primary day for baptisms. After their baptism, the newly baptized were then trained in basic Christian doctrine, including the meaning of the sacraments they had now experienced. Those being baptized were given new white robes to wear as a sign they had taken off the world, died to sin, and were raised with the risen Christ to new life. This is why Pentecost may also be referred to in English as "Whitsunday" or "White Sunday."

Templar Knights wore a white mantle with a red cross. The white color to symbolize their purity and chastity. The red cross was a symbol of martyrdom "Templar knights fought to the death and without fear!" Today, we are no longer required to fight to the death. We are required, through the practice of Christian virtues, to be leaders in our community and fraternity. We cannot lead if we are not present or participating. Physical presence is hard for some of us due to geography. Participation is not difficult for the rest of us. A seat on the sidelines is as important as a station in the line. Increasing our membership is the only way we will survive as a Commandery. Recruiting new members starts with a conversation with a brother Mason who shows interest. Your actions as a Christian knight will draw that interest. We cannot attract interest if we are not visible.

As we enter the summer season, take this time to relax, refresh, reconnect with family and friends, reflect on how we can improve as men, Masons, Christians and Templar Knights. Have a safe and joyous summer.

Yours in Christ

SK George R. Saunders

Right Eminent Grand Commander

