



From the Desk of the Grand Commander

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To: Elected and Appointed Grand Officers, Past Grand Officers, Division Commanders, Officers and Members of the Constituent Commanderies of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania.

General Order Number One

This Templar year the theme is 'Share the Blessing', the focus will be on helping those less fortunate. There are several ways we can make a difference in our communities. I am going to ask each Commandery to participate in food drives throughout the year, not just during the Holidays. Ask the Sir Knights of your Commandery to bring canned goods or nonperishable items to your Conclaves each month. Help local charities with fund raising by volunteering your time, such as bell ringing for the Salvation Army. Also adopting a family during the Christmas season. I am sure in different parts of the state there are charitable programs that we can assist.

This year we will make an effort to increase the proficiency in our Commanderies. The Inspection Program will be suspended for this Templar year. Replacing it will be a workshop program. This program will be under the direction of the Division Commanders. Every Commandery will have a workshop. The guidelines will be published for the workshops and posted on the Grand Commandery web site. The Division Commander may choose a qualified Sir Knight to assist at the workshop or to lead it. It will still be the duty of the Division Commander to examine the records of the Commanderies in his Division. The Division

Commander may work in conjunction with the Eminent Commander as to what he feels would be the most beneficial instructions for their Commandery. This being a new approach we will solicit your input as to how improvements can be made.

The Rehearsal of Duties will be performed at least twice during the Templar year. This is an important part of our Ritual and needs to be maintain.

We will continue the program to endow the Holy Land Pilgrimage. We have received the proper license to conduct a raffle to continue this effort. We will raffle a muzzleloader rifle that was manufactured by a 4th generation gun maker who also happens to be Eminent Commander of his Commandery. This muzzleloader is a beautiful piece of art and will be treasured by whomever wins it. I will be asking Sir Knights from throughout the Grand Commandery to assist in selling tickets. Tickets will be available for sale after the Annual Conclave in May.

The membership program with the trophies will continue this year. The guidelines are on the Grand Commandery web site. Every Sir Knight should carry a petition to any Masonic function and be ready to explain the York Rite Bodies. If we don't work together we will cease individually.

Some important dates:

June 24, 2017-----Lewisburg Veterans Parade

July 22, 2017-----Testimonial for REGC-----Grantville

July 29, 2017-----One day conferral-----Williamsport

August 12, 2017---PGM Charles M. Bombich's Testimonial-----Pittsburgh

Sept. 16-17-----Gettysburg Memorial weekend

Sept. 23, 2017-----One Day Class-----Harrisburg

Oct. 8, 2017-----Northeast Reception-----Breinigsville

Oct. 15, 2017-----Northwest Reception-----Meadville

Oct. 21, 2017-----Southeast Reception-----Warminster