



Pennsylvania Crusader

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA
pagrandcommandery.org

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Greetings Sir Knights,

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer with picnics and vacations, but now September is upon us and it is time to get back to work.

Sir Knights, at my installation I told you that we have Great charities in Templary with the Eye Foundation that helps others to **SEE** the world around them, and the Holy Land Pilgrimage that helps pilgrim ministers to **SEE** the Holy Land in person. We also have great Masonic youth groups that help mold our youth to be future leaders in our communities. So why not stretch beyond our walls and support the largest student-run philanthropy in the world that also helps children with cancer to **SEE** a future beyond tomorrow. A student run philanthropy right here in Pennsylvania. Students that will be the leaders of tomorrow and need to know there are other groups that support their mission.

THON is a student-run philanthropy committed to enhancing the lives of children and families impacted by childhood cancer. Every school day, 43 children are diagnosed with cancer, but 16,500 student volunteers are working to change that. Their mission is to provide emotional and financial support, spread awareness, and ensure funding for critical research—all in pursuit of a cure. This year long effort by the students culminates in February with a 46-hour dance marathon. \$190+ million raised. This money stays here in PA supporting the Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Hershey Medical Center. Four Diamonds was established by Charles and Irma Millard after their son, Christopher, passed away after battling cancer for three years at the age of 14. Shortly before he lost his battle with cancer, he wrote a story about a great knight who sought out the four diamonds of courage, wisdom, honesty and strength, in order to be released from the grips of an evil sorceress, which was the inspiration for the name Four Diamonds. Through Four Diamonds, Chris Millard and his legendary story of Sir Millard live on, and serve as a beacon of hope for children and their families fighting cancer. Sir Knights, this can't be a coincidence that Christopher's story was about a Knight. We were meant to support the student volunteers of THON, and all the Sir Millard's that battle cancer every day.



FTK – For the Kids more information available at <https://thon.org/>

The story of Sir Millard

<https://www.fourdiamonds.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Four-Diamonds-Story-Book.pdf>

I am asking each Commandery to raise at least \$100.00 to help with this fight against cancer. If you can raise more that's great. You may ask "what can \$100 do?" Well, \$60 can give one hour of Child Life Coverage, \$150 can support one day of outpatient treatment for Leukemia, and \$750 one experiment at Penn State Health Children's Hospital in search of a cure. Let's do the best we can and show these students that Knights Templar in Pennsylvania support the leadership they have shown, and continue to show, in support of a very worthy cause. Every dollar helps. A communication was sent to all Recorders with instructions on where and when to send any funds collected.

Yours in Templary,
Mark G. Mattern, REGC

A Letter from the Associate Grand Prelate:

Here we are in September when we are all called back to labor. It is a time when we reconvene our conclaves. We have a Holiday called Labor Day on the first Monday of the month. Labor Day is called the “unofficial” end of summer because it marks the end of the cultural summer season. It is a time to honor the American worker. It is a three -day weekend when people gather for family picnics, hear speakers, before beginning our fall labors

Here are some famous quotes. “Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.” Confucius. Also, “work is no disgrace; the disgrace is idleness.” A Greek Proverb.

There are many references in the Bible about labor. One from 1 Cor.: “Therefore my dear brother stand firm, let nothing move you. Always give yourself fully to the Lord because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

S. K. Lewis E. Burgett, AGP