



GRAND COMMANDERY
of
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
of
Pennsylvania

FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND COMMANDER

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May 20, 2024

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

ORGANIZATION

Sir Knights,

I want to express my humble appreciation to you for your trust in electing me to serve you as your Grand Commander for this Templar year. There is no greater honor nor responsibility than to serve God and mankind. In addition, I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all those who have and continue to support me throughout this journey, especially my loving wife Rebecca.

The theme for this Templar year is **“By the Grace of God.”** We have been blessed with God’s favor, let us demonstrate our Christian values by exhibiting love for one another in our actions, words, and activities, encouraging all by our example to share in the divine life and grace of the Lord. We can demonstrate this by continuing to serve in our Commanderies and communities: helping to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and bind up the wounds of the afflicted. We must demonstrate our strong moral and character values that exhibit what it means to be a true Christian Knight whose purpose is to serve God while serving and supporting others. Act appropriately, be seen as chivalric examples, serve the greater good, and show Christ’s love in action, thereby deserving God’s grace. Examples of which are food and clothing drives and donation boxes, volunteering at hospitals and food banks, collecting and fundraising for charities, and calling or dropping by to check on fraters, to name just a few ways to serve others while addressing our tenets.

Saint Michael, the protector of God's people, is chosen as my patron saint. As a spiritual warrior, champion of justice, healer of the sick, and guardian of the Church, his is a fitting model of how we, as Knights Templar, should be ever ready to defend our integrity, values, and faith by addressing the needs of others. Revered by the military orders of knights in the Middle Ages, Saint Michael provides a fitting standard to which we can aspire and by which we can govern our actions.

Project Recover is my designated personal charity. For over 30 years, Project Recover has been the nation's leading citizen-led, non-profit organization to search, locate, document, recover, and repatriate the over 81,500 American service members missing in action and to bring recognition and closure to the estimated five million MIA Gold Star families like mine. Information on these efforts can be found at <https://www.projectrecover.org/about/>.

As Pennsylvania Chair for the Knights Templar Eye Foundation (KTEF) it will continue to be one of our primary charities. Our goal is **100% Life Sponsorship** for all of our constituent commanderies. Life Sponsorship is a one-time \$30.00 individual contribution or that same contribution in your name from your commandery. Their stated mission is to improve vision through research, education, and supporting access to care. Research provides needed exploration and development into innovative methods, technologies, and treatments for all patients of all ages. Educational support helps prepare and inform doctors in the applications, techniques, and treatments of all types of eye diseases and conditions. Access delivers support beyond a person's individual coverage and is provided through payment vouchers upon request. Pennsylvania's Grand Commandery has been steadfast in demonstrating its support for the KTEF through voluntary donations. I am asking you to continue to support this incredibly worthwhile charity, demonstrating your commitment to those afflicted. Information on becoming a Life Sponsor is available on the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania website (pagrandcommandery.org) or through the Foundation's website at: www.ktef.org.

Inspections and Workshops will continue to determine our strengths and weaknesses that deserve to be commended or addressed. Divisional and Sectional workshops and Schools of Instruction will continue to reinforce and further develop our skills and knowledge. The Rehearsal of Duties is an important part of our Ritual and reminds each officer what is expected of him, and all officers are expected to know their dialogue and recite it from memory. This will continue as part of the inspection process.

Communication! Recorders are our main resource for obtaining, retaining, and communicating information such as information on membership, conferrals, abilities, and general operations that must be communicated throughout the chain of command. Training will continue to be provided for Recorders and each commandery will appoint an Assistant Recorder to assist the Recorder. In support of this, we will continue utilizing the tools we have: the MMS System, seminars, and virtual conferencing. There will be a monthly virtual meeting for Division Commanders to increase communication and be more responsive to needs. We need to communicate what we do; do what we say we do; and do what we do well.

Receptions will be held throughout the year, giving Sir Knights the opportunity to meet the Grand Officers, and for them to meet you. Further, these occasions provide an opportunity for Sir Knights to meet and socialize with other Sir Knights and their families. These social events allow us the occasion to demonstrate positive knightly virtues via manners, protocol, and respect while sharing time and fellowship with those we care about. Whatever branch of service, including Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard, past or present, you are and have helped keep our country and our families safe. Thank you for your service. As a token of honor and respect for those not able to be with us we will have a “Fallen Comrade or Missing Man Table” at all relevant occasions. This token of respect is meant to remind us of those fallen, missing, or imprisoned military service members.

Values! Let us focus on embracing and demonstrating those values which set us apart as Templars: values such as faith, family, truth, integrity, and honor as demonstrated in our Oaths and Orders. Let us take pride in our appearance and performance both within and outside of the asylum. The Knights Templar are the pinnacle of the York Rite and, as such, we must set an example for others to follow and aspire to. Working together, we will focus our efforts on meeting these high standards and expectations. Our goal will be to demonstrate to all that working together we strive to be the best we can be and By the Grace of God we can and will succeed.

**TENTATIVE DATES FOR YOUR PLANNING CALENDARS 2024-2025:
(Dates subject to change)**

June 01, 2024	Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication	Erie
June 08, 2024	Grand Chapter Communication	Johnstown
June 22, 2024	Testimonial Banquet, Greensburg Country Club	Greensburg
July 13, 2024	Tuskegee Airman Memorial Wreath Laying	Sewickley
Aug 17-21, 2024	GEKT Triennial	SLC, UT
Sept 6-7, 2024	NE Dept Conference	Albany, NY
Sept 11, 2024	Flight 93 Wreath Laying	Shanksville
Sept 20-22, 2024	NY Annual Conclave	Suffern, NY
Sept 21-22, 2024	Gettysburg Memorial/Central Reception	Gettysburg
Oct 26-27, 2024	Mass/R.I. Annual Conclave	TBD
Nov 8-10, 2024	Stated Conference -- LO/DC Seminar	Elizabethtown
Dec 4, 2024	GL Quarterly Communication	Philadelphia
Mar 1, 2025	NJ Annual Conclave	Tom’s River, NJ
Mar 7, 2025	DE Annual Conclave	Newark, DE
Mar 15-16, 2025	DC Annual Conclave	Washington, DC
Apr 05, 2025	SW Reception	Pittsburgh
Apr 11-12, 2025	CT Annual Conclave	Cromwell, CT
Apr 18-20, 2025	Maine Annual Conclave	Portland, ME
May 10, 2025	NH Annual Conclave	Concord, NH
May 30-31, 2025	172nd Annual Conclave, Doubletree Greentree	Pittsburgh

All preceding parts of this General Order, to this point, are to be read in full at the next scheduled conclave of each Commandery, and the entire General Order entered in full or attached to the records.

Only those portions of the Jurisdictional Assignments which pertain to your respective Section, Division, and Commandery are required to be read.

Given over my hand and seal of the Grand Commander, Knights Templar of Pennsylvania on May 20, 2024, in the year of our Lord, A.O. 906.

Yours in Templary,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Horath".

Grand Commander

Attest:

Mark G. Mattern PGC
Grand Recorder

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ENTIRE JURISDICTION

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