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May 26, 2021

From the Desk of the Grand Commander

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**

#### **GREETINGS:**

Sir Knights:

It is my great honor to serve as your Grand Commander for this coming Templar year. I am looking forward to the challenge of getting back on track, meeting in person, making new Sir Knights, while still utilizing the tools that were made available to us during the pandemic.

My theme this Templar year is "Make a Statement, Take a Stand". Find something that you believe in, something you're passionate about, and help to make it better.

Sir Knights this Templar year has been most challenging. We have said goodbye to some family and friends because of what is happening around us with this pandemic, but we have also persevered and stood tall. Now more than ever the world needs good spiritual values to believe in. Values similar to our Christian values that can help us all join together as one voice to eliminate hate and promote tolerance, understanding, friendship, and Brotherly love toward all mankind. With Easter just a few months ago the holiday should remind us all that this world can rise up to be a better place, but that won't happen if we don't try to change hearts and minds so they can see the light from above.

Our Masonic Youth Groups can use our help as well. If you have the time to give, I know they would appreciate it. Just having visitors there to see the work they are doing and the progress they have made can be a big boost for them. The Holy Land Pilgrimage and Knights Templar Eye Foundation are very worthy charities that we already support.

I now want to challenge all of the Constituent Commanderies. Knights Templar and Freemasonry are all famous for the financial contributions we make around the world. We also have youth groups that help our young men and women gain skills that can help them be the leaders of tomorrow. That is why I want to honor another great philanthropy that is run by students. THON, the dance marathon run by the students at Penn State University is the largest student run philanthropy in the world. This great organization raises money every year for Childhood Cancer Treatment and Research through the Four Diamonds Fund. They have raised millions of dollars for this endeavor and they deserve our help as well. I will be sending out more information in a separate communication about this challenge.

Sir Knights, together we can recover from this pandemic and the virtual world we were forced to exist in. We can make this world a better place one step at a time. We can come back out into the light in the hope that one day our swords will be beaten into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks; that nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. We can Make a Statement and Take a Stand!

Workshops should continue in each Commandery. This is a yearly occurrence that should always happen regardless if inspections take place or not. The Division Commander may lead the workshop, or he may choose a qualified Sir Knight to assist him. Each workshop should focus on what would be the most beneficial for that Commandery.

The Inspection Program will continue with the new form that was instituted. We don't know if this latest form is the best in helping evaluate our proficiency since we haven't been able to get real feedback while meeting virtually, but we need to use it to see what it will show us. Additionally, I will continue the following requirement for inspections this year: Every Eminent Commander will be required, from memory, to recite the Fifth Libation. I will also issue a General Order detailing this requirement.

Every Commandery is to perform the Rehearsal of Duties at least twice during the Templar year. This is an important part of our Ritual and reminds each officer what he is expected of him.

While we are starting to meet in person again, don't forget that we still have GoToMeeting available for Section, Division, or individual Commandery group/committee meetings. Recorders need to be diligent in keeping the MMS (Masonic Membership Solutions) system updated. We must educate ourselves on how these tools need to be used to maximize the business functions that the Commanderies must perform each year. The officers what is available to assist them in their duties.

Sectional/Division Receptions will be held throughout the year. The purpose of these Receptions is twofold: For the members in the Section to meet the Grand Officers, and for them to meet you. It is also an opportunity for you to meet with other Sir Knights, and their families, to socialize. Please try to come meet with your Fraters at one, or more, of these events.

Here are dates to plan for the Templar Year 2021-2022: (some are subject to change)

July 24, REGC Testimonial / Awards Presentation	AACA Museum, Hershey
August 28, Commandery One Day Class	Reading Masonic Center
October 2, Division 11 Reception	Gettysburg
October 3, Gettysburg Memorial Service	Friend to Friend Memorial
October 24, Northeast Reception	
November 12-14, Line Officers Seminar	Patton Campus, Elizabethtown
February 5-6, Division Commanders Seminar	Patton Campus, Elizabethtown
April 16-17, Easter Sunrise Weekend	Alexandria, Virginia
May 19-22, 169th Annual Conclave	Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square

All preceding parts of this General Order, to this point, are to be read in full at the next stated 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 under my hand and seal of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania this day, May 26, in the year of our Lord 2021, A.O. 903.

Yours in Templary,



Mark G. Mattern  
Grand Commander

Attest:

Douglas M. Rowe  
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