



FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND COMMANDER

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June 1, 2020

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:

*“**Spiritus Gladius**”* is my theme - translation is ‘spirit of the sword’. The phrase is encompassed around Saint Paul the Apostle. He changed and brought change to the world. He taught the first century world the Gospel of Christ and is commonly known as the father of our modern-day church - but he was not always a Christian. On the road to Damascus, where he was going to persecute Christians, Christ appeared and spoke to him - which forever changed him. From that point forward, Paul’s life changed forever. If we learn nothing more about that point in his life and his life thereafter, it is that CHANGE can be for good and can make a difference and help us to keep the faith.

This year I will also focus attention on the Spur. It is an important symbol for Templars and part of our Templar Ritual. It reminds us to fulfill our sworn duties as a Knight Templar – it **spurs** us forward. A phrase I used in my time as a Section Officer was – ‘Perfection we seek – but effort is expected’. Let us challenge ourselves to meet the duties that we as Knights Templars have sworn to uphold. Let us give that effort to **spur** forward and meet those duties.

For us to change, we need to know who we are and where we stand. We need to learn our strengths and our weaknesses and decide what the next steps are to improve ourselves. To do so, we will collect, consolidate, and evaluate information.

We will gather needed information for each Commandery regarding attendance, uniforms, associated Lodges, Chapter and Councils and Conferral of Orders to name a few.

We will focus on gathering membership information to evaluate how involved our Sir Knights are with their Commanderies. We will fill in key information that is needed to contact our Sir Knights. This process will be the foundation for future member programs that we will design.

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 is back - but with a new form that was instituted late last Templar year. I do not know if this latest form is the best in helping evaluate our proficiency, but we need to use it to see the outcome it will show us. Additionally, I will add the following requirement to inspections this year: Every Eminent Commander will be required, from memory, to recite the Fifth Libation. I will issue a General Order detailing this requirement.

Every Commandery is also 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.

We will also focus on leveraging existing tools that we have - such as the MMS system and video/virtual conferencing. We must educate ourselves on how these tools need to be used to maximize the business functions that the Commanderies must perform each year. Recorders, officers, and members need to understand 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 2020-2021:

July 25	REGC Testimonial	Green Tree
Sept. 19	Division 11 Reception	Gettysburg
Sept. 20	Gettysburg Memorial Service	Gettysburg
Oct. 18	NE Reception	TBD
Oct. 24	Central Reception	Bedford
Nov. 13-14	Line Officers Seminar	Elizabethtown
Feb. 5-6	Division Commanders Wknd	Elizabethtown
Feb. 27	Northwest Reception	TBD
Mar. 13	SW Reception	Pittsburgh
Mar. 21	SE Reception	TBD
May 20-23	168 th Annual Conclave	Green Tree

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, June 1, in the year of our Lord 2020, A.O. 902.

Sean M. Tomasic,
Grand Commander

Attest: Douglas M. Rowe,
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JURISDICTIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

Entire Jurisdiction

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