



Pennsylvania Crusader

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA
pagrandcommandery.org

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My Fellow Fraters:

Greetings! August is now upon us. Vacations with family are on everyone's minds this time of year, as well as getting geared up to go back to school or off to college. Sport teams are in Summer League and training camps are open. Bountiful fruit and vegetable harvests are being realized. Although the days remain hot, the early signs of Autumn are unmistakable!

The Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania has been and remains busy during the summer months. We've taken part in the Council of Deliberation in Harrisburg and spent time acknowledging our Masonic Youth organizations—PA DeMolay, PA Rainbow for Girls and Job's Daughters. As you are reading this, we're about to complete a One Day Conferral of Orders, hosted by Reading No. 9 Commandery. The event will no doubt be well-attended and even more of a special event was the work will be done in full Chain Mail. What a sight it will be to see Sir Knights in gleaming helmets around the Triangle! Congratulations to our newly made Sir Knights; may you go forward to serve your Constituent Commanderies well!

On Saturday July 23, 2022 the Testimonial was held at the Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum. The event was well-attended and close to \$3,000.00 was raised for PA DeMolay and Animal Rescues. Special thanks to all the Sir Knights and Ladies from across the state who were in attendance as well as representation from the Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter, Grand Council, Prince Hall and our Right Worshipful Grand Master, Brother and Sir Knight Jeffrey M Wonderling. I thank you all for your generosity!

Constituent Commanderies have responded to my motto of "Our Basic Tenets"—Feeding the Hungry, Clothing the Naked and Binding the Wounds of the Afflicted. Special mention to Continental No. 56 stationed in Chambersburg for their generous donations of funds and food to the Antietam Animal Rescue, presenting their gifts in Full Templar Uniform—how impressive! Let us continue the great works we've already started and achieved. There are so many shelters that are in dire need of assistance. As Knights Templar we will do our Christian Best to aid and assist these worthy causes.

Other events on the horizon include the Job's Daughter's Banquet in Elizabethtown Pennsylvania on August 19th, the Division No. 3 Picnic at Menlo Park in Perkasie, PA on Saturday August 20 and the Northeast Department Conference on Friday and Saturday September 9-10 in Albany, New York. All information for these events can be found on the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania website. I look forward to continuing visiting with the Sir Knights and ladies of Pennsylvania as well as those within the Northeast Department. It's a great ride and I'm enjoying every moment of it! When we work together, great things are possible!

Courteously,
Sir Knight Harry Jude Smith, Right Eminent Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania

Grand Prelate's Message:

During the Revolutionary War, George Washington had an abundance of soldiers volunteer to fight during the summer months, but as winter came, with rations in short supply and blankets being scarce, they began to slip silently from camp and return to the warmth of their families. After some weeks of this, General Washington despaired of "summer soldiers," saying that he could not win a war with them. The kingdom of God has had its problems with summer soldiers.

You and I are often like "summer soldiers." We are good if it fits our schedule and is something we want to do but often when we are needed and much is asked of us we gently slip away.

We cannot win the war if we are not ready to experience or serve in any significant way until we make the journey from start to finish. Every pastor knows of people who, after some event in their lives, rush into their studies and profess to want to "get active and serve through my church." Most of us know they do not want to usher, feed hungry people, teach children in Sunday School, or build shelters for the homeless. We really have no intention to give a cup of cold water in Jesus' name. We do not wish to "take the towel." Their desire is to become the chairperson of the governing board, or in some other way "sit at the head table." We are like the rich young ruler, in that we do not wish to make any sacrifice. The kingdom should be glad to have us.

Sir Knights may each of us take our calling as God's disciples seriously. Not just when it suits us but may we may do whatever possible to "fight the good fight" and continue to let the word know there are those who are indeed more than "summer soldiers."

Yours in Christ;

Sir Knight and Reverend A. Preston Van Deursen

Grand Prelate