



# Pennsylvania Crusader

Since 1948

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
[pagrandcommandery.org](http://pagrandcommandery.org)

**S.K. Thomas C. Helm, Grand Commander**  
[drtom4250@gmail.com](mailto:drtom4250@gmail.com)

Editor: SK Mark G. Mattern, PGC email: [grandrecgcktpa@gmail.com](mailto:grandrecgcktpa@gmail.com)



## March 2024

### *Greetings Sir Knights,*

Although Spring is almost here, we are still in the clutches of winter. This time of year also brings sickness, so I ask you to take care of yourself and your family. This time of year is very important for Christians as the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. As Christians during this season of Lent we prepare for Easter by praying, looking at our lives and abstaining from chosen things. Jesus Christ is not only the greatest of all leaders; He is our Lord and Savior. He tells us in the scriptures that "I come to serve and to give my life as a ransom for many." To Serve is an attribute that defines Christians and the Templar Leader. Remember your Templar principles and be a Sir Knight who serves with a loving and charitable heart.

The registration form and schedule for the 171st Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania is now available on the Grand Commandery website and from your Recorders. Please ensure you read it carefully. There is a lot of information in "The Call". It includes a schedule for the Events Agenda for the weekend, menus being offered, registration form for the Hotel and information for the Ladies Program.

The Grand Commandery Educational Foundations Academic Scholarship grant applications are now open for students to apply. They will need to go to the Grand Commandery website and click on **Scholarship Application** on the right hand side of the screen, and then complete the application. The applicants are required to provide a copy of their high school or college transcripts. These Scholarship grants are open to all students regardless of their financial circumstances, and no Masonic affiliation is required to receive a grant. The student must be a U.S. citizen, a resident of Pennsylvania and be enrolled or accepted into one of the following: 1) A vocational school that trains artisans and craftsmen, 2) A technical school, 3) A professional school and 4) Colleges and Universities.

As we are about to leave winter and enter into spring, remember this is a time of rebirth and it can be seen all around us by simply viewing nature. The "new life" happens everywhere in nature; leaves on the trees, grass, flowers blooming, baby birds, fawns, rabbits and all the other creatures that are experiencing this new life cycle. Enjoy it! Thank Jesus for the blessings we have in this life. And remember to share the blessings and bounty we have to our fellow

citizens and our charities. Please remember Tunnels to Towers can use all the charity you can provide.

### Upcoming Events

March 2	New Jersey Grand Conclave
March 3	Knights of Malta
March 5	Packer Commandery No 23
March 7	Mt. Hermon Commandery No 85
March 8	Delaware Grand Conclave
March 10	Forward Planning Meeting
March 11	Mary Conclave RCC
March 12	Rose Croix Stated Meeting
March 16	District of Columbia Grand Conclave
March 21	Samuel S. Yohe - Dinner
March 24	Feast of the` Paschal Lamb
March 27	Joshua Association Banquet
March 29	Good Friday Breakfast
March 29-30	94 <sup>th</sup> Easter Sunrise Service, Alexandria, VA. Wreath Laying, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier - Alexandria
May 17-19	171st Annual Conclave – Delta Marriott Hotel, Breinigsville

**Templar Knights in history:** Andre de Montbard (5 Nov. 1097 - 17 Jan. 1156) came from the Montbard family of Hochadel of Burgundy and was an uncle to Saint Bernard of Clairvaux as half-brother of Bernard's mother. He was a vassel of Hugues I Count of Champagne. Andre de Montbard entered the Order in 1119 and went to Palestine, where he quickly rose to the rank of Seneschal and became deputy and second-in-command to the Grand Master. Andre de Montbard was elected fifth Grand Master of the Knights Templar on 22 August 1153 to replace Bernard de Tremelay, who had been killed on 16 August during the siege of Ascalon. He died in Jerusalem on 17 January 1156. He was succeeded by Bertrand de Blanchefort. He left no descendants.

**"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James**

**4:7**



In His Service,  
S.K. Thomas C. Helm  
Grand Commander



## Associate Grand Prelate's Message

John 11:25-26 - Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Dia duit,

Love, sacrifice and eternal life are what this month is all about in the Church Calendar. Yes, there is the theoretical visitation of a short green clothed man in there for some people, but the Holiday of March this year is Easter.

Easter should be a special time for each of us. As Christians, it represents the day that Jesus Christ rose from the dead that we might be born again into that same Resurrection. Some of us prefer the term Resurrection Day, and it is far more fitting, I believe. Regardless of the name given, the events are the same, the results are the same, the impact should be the same.

Lent finishes up this month, concluding with Holy Week. We start Holy Week with Palm Sunday and Christ's triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. The crowds sang out so much that the religious leaders complained, and Jesus told them that the very earth would cry out if the people did not. We have a few quiet days and then BAM, excitement full swing. Holy Thursday gives us the Last Supper, inspiration for one of the best-known paintings in the world, powerful prayer, an arrest and an unjust trial. All this leads up to Good Friday, when Jesus dies for our sake after enduring some of the worst torture humanity has ever caused. Finally, just a few days later, Christ rises from the dead, defeats death, and saves us.

This was such a monumental event that the first Christians, devout Jews, started worshiping on Sundays. This represented a change to thou/sands of years of tradition. It's so hard for us to change our habits and they went against major cultural norms.

While this is an old story to us now, one that many of us have grown up with, it was groundbreaking two thousand years ago. Regardless of how accustomed we are to this story; it should still awe and inspire us. God came to save us, those who have constantly rebelled against Him and who hated Him. What greater love is there than the love of God?

I encourage each and every one of us to remember the sacrifice on Calvary and the Resurrection on Sunday. May every Sunday of your year be a mini-Easter (as they are supposed to be). May the Love of Jesus permeate your life and spread throughout all the world.

Let us be an Easter People, a Resurrection People, a redeemed and saved people.

SK. Pastor Josh Yorks, AGP