



Pennsylvania Crusader

Since 1948

GRAND COMMANDERY OF PENNSYLVANIA
pagrandcommandery.org

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April 2026

Greetings Sir Knights,

Since our last issue of the Pennsylvania Crusader, the Call for the [173rd Annual Conclave](#) has been published and shared. I sincerely hope you can join us in King of Prussia, PA from May 29th - 31st for what should be a great weekend of Templar fellowship. In addition to the business of our Grand Commandery, there will be vendors, a ladies' program, a meeting of the Sovereign Order of Knights Preceptor, and lots more. Information for reserving hotel rooms and meals can be found in the Call (linked above).

I have had the great pleasure of attending a number of conferrals of orders over the last two months. My thanks to all the Sir Knights of our constituent commanderies who have put in the time and effort to prepare for, and execute, successful conferrals. You are creating meaningful, memorable experiences for our new members that will heighten their interest in Templary. But as we know – the work does not end with the orders. Share copies of the [Manual of the Sword](#) and the [Drill & Tactics Manual](#) and lend them a sword. Find a way to get those new Sir Knights involved in your commandery!

As you all know, this is also the season for elections and installations. For all those taking a new chair, I highly recommend a document created by S.K. Seth C. Anthony, PDC, that we refer to as the "[New Commander's Guide](#)". In fact, it's helpful for ALL officers, especially those working their way up the line. Check it out here.

I look forward to seeing you at Grand Encampment's Easter Weekend in April and our own 173rd Annual Conclave in May!

Courteously,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joshua J. Nay".

SK Joshua J. Nay
Grand Commander

Mark Your Calendars

Apr 4-5, 2026 – Easter Sunrise Weekend, Arlington/Alexandria, VA

Apr 11, 2026 – Southwest Section Reception, Canonsburg, PA

May 29-31, 2026 – 173 rd Annual Conclave, King of Prussia, PA

Commandery Anniversaries in April

Continental No. 56 – April 3, 1876 – Congratulations on 150 Years!

Holyrood No. 100 – April 9, 1983 – Our Youngest Commandery, just 43 Years Old

Prince of Peace No. 39 – April 26, 1871 – 155 Years Old

Melita-Coeur de Lion No. 17 – April 28, 1858 – 168 Years Old



Associate Grand Prelate's Message

Dia duit,

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

This refrain is one that we will hear frequently this month with Easter, but it is not one that we should forget either literally or figuratively. This is the basis of our faith. Billions of people the world over base their entire spiritual beliefs on this fact. This simple line changes how we view everything. These words should guide our actions and be revealed in our lives.

Some people want to say that Jesus was just a great teacher or prophet, but not divine. Some will say that what he taught was not really new or unique. Some will even go so far as to say that as a young boy and young man, during those “missing years”, he traveled the world learning from such teachers as the Celtic druids, the Greek philosophers, and/or the Indian Brahmas. While I like the image of a globe-trotting Jesus, I doubt he went anywhere to be taught. And if he was taught by these things he taught, then the other things he said make him a mad man.

C. S. Lewis said it best when he said in *Mere Christianity*: “A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

What is our proof he is not a mad man? Jesus is risen, he is risen indeed. How do we know he is risen? Two thousand years later we base our time on Jesus' life. Even the C.E. usage instead of the A.D. is still based off the life of Christ if less obviously so. They both start at the same point. Why do we do this? Because the original disciples went out. They spread the Gospel to the corners of the earth. They did not do it by the might of their weapons(though others later did), they did not do it by the might of money or influence, they were all “common” people, they did not do it from a position of power. They did it from the conviction that they saw the Risen LORD! The man they witnessed dying at the hands of the most efficient killers in history, walked and talked with them. May he do the same to us today.

Christ IS Risen, He IS Risen Indeed!

SK & Pastor Josh Yorks, AGP



On March 5th, the Sir Knights of Damascus Commandery No. 95 in Souderton, conferred the Order of Malta on from Division 3. Well done, Sir Knights!



S.K. David E. Barlieb, Jr., EGCG, enjoyed a visit to his home commandery, Samuel S. Yohe Commandery No. 81, on March 19th.



The three commanderies of Division 1 united to confer the Order of the Temple on six candidates on March 12th. Congratulations to the new Sir Knights! A special thanks to S.K. Matheu C. Wilson, C, of Mizpah No. 96 (Division 5), for serving as Generalissimo for the conferral.



Congratulations to the Sir Knights of Nativity Commandery No. 71 in Pottstown, who conferred the Order of the Temple on two candidates at their conclave on March 19th!



Sir Knights of Division 6 conferred the Order of Malta. Well done, Sir Knights!



S.K. Joshua J. Nay, REGC, had the great pleasure to march with the members and officers of Isaac Craig Camp of the Heroes of '76 in the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade. Special thanks to S.K. Richard M. Dodds, PC, for the invitation and to S.K. Preston "Marty" Martineau, Jr., REPGC (pictured) who led our Masonic contingent.



The Sir Knights of Reading Commandery No. 9 celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a very enjoyable conclave. Special thanks to S.K. and Rev. Robert A. Witmyer, EGP, S.K. Randy R. Knauss, DC9, S.K. Curtis R. Beam, Adjutant, and S.K. Donald Zipp III, for visiting!

***** SPECIAL REPORT *** SPECIAL REPORT *** SPECIAL REPORT *****

To: Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania

From: The Rev. Dr. S.K. Nathan Corl Minnich, HPGC
Chairman, Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee, Pennsylvania
Member, Holy Land Pilgrimage Committee, Grand Encampment KT USA

Re: Knights Templar Holy Land Pilgrimage 2026

As I set out leading the second group of Pilgrims this year on our pilgrimage, I left Harrisburg with all the PA pilgrims (and one Ohio pilgrim) in a van driven by S.K. Brian Hatley (Hermit Commandery No. 24). His transportation is greatly appreciated!

This group had an unprecedented experience. We began by being grounded at EWR airport in Newark, NJ, for two blizzardy days and finally departed on February 25. Upon our arrival, we had reorganized the itinerary to give them a slightly condensed version of the usual Galilee tour. We arrived in Jerusalem on Friday evening, February 27, and anticipated picking up on the usual itinerary for the balance of the pilgrimage. On Saturday morning, we visited Mt. Zion. While there, the missiles from Iran begin to enter the airspace. We were quickly returned to our hotel in Jerusalem, and we spent some time (briefly) in the designated safe spaces there. Our tour company (Gate 1 Travel) immediately began making alternative arrangements for moving our group toward a safe and efficient trip home safely. Within a short time, we were headed to the most southern part of Israel (Eilat) for a short overnight until early morning when we crossed over the border to Egypt. After a long bus ride, we arrived in Cairo with flight arrangements already made for us to fly directly from Cairo to JFK very early Tuesday morning. Since we had

Monday in Cairo, our tour company made arrangements for us to take the group to the Giza Plateau to see the Pyramids and the Sphinx. A few of us also got the chance to spend a couple of hours at the new Grand Egyptian Museum. Amazing.

We got to our early morning flight at Cairo Airport and had a direct flight to JFK, arriving at 10:30 AM on Tuesday. At that point, people in the group began getting their domestic flights either that day or on Wednesday to get back home. We are all home safe and sound.

Much credit goes to Gate 1 Travel for their immediate response to the situation and repositioning us to get safely out of the area and home as soon as physically possible. Our tour guide, Mati Senkman, made sure every detail was in place and unfolding as efficiently as could be.

We all appreciate the thoughts, prayers, and concerns expressed by so many on our behalf. We learned a great deal from this unusual set of 'adventures' with the second group. We clearly saw the advantage of having a highly experienced tour company with a dedicated staff who were able to respond immediately to the situation, both weather at the beginning and missiles at the end. At no time were we in imminent danger, and they carefully saw to our needs and repositioned us so very efficiently. It helps us to know for certain that our future pilgrimages are safe and our team is able to respond to any situation that may arise.

I am grateful to have had my assistant host, The Rev. Kenneth Blyth, and longtime lead host The Rev. Duane Kemerley along as well.

Thank you for all the prayers and concerns while traveling. Check out our future plans at: www.kthlp.com

