Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania

Apartment of the Grand Prelate

December 25, 2026 A.D., 908 A.O.



"Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people. To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:10-12)

Right Eminent Grand Commander SK Troy Mock and Lady Sherri, greetings in the name of Christ our Lord and Grace and Peace to you and to those you hold dear!

On behalf of the Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania, we raise a Toast in your honor this Christmas as our Grand Commander. We join with you, Grand Commander, echoing the words: *"Joy to the world, the Lord has come! Let earth receive her King , Let every heart prepare Him room, And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing!"*

How many of us find ourselves entirely engulfed by the activity of the holiday season and overwhelmed by its expectations? I am certainly one of those people and often find myself expressing a "Bah, humbug!" attitude about the entire Christmas season, at least in its secular form. What we all need to do is take some time out of the hustle and bustle of the secular activities and focus on the true meaning of the Christmas season.

What do we really want out of this Christmas season? What are we looking for? Why do we celebrate it? Let me share with you what I want this Christmas as I ponder its true meaning. *" What do I want for Christmas? I want to kneel in Bethlehem, the air thick with alleluias, the angels singing that God is born among us. In the light of the Star, I want to see them come, the wise ones and the humble. I want to see them come bearing whatever they treasure to lay at the feet of him who gives his life. What do I want for Christmas? To see in that stable the whole world kneeling in thanks for a promise kept: new life. For in his nativity, we find ours."*

(What do I want for Christmas? By Anne Weems, from Kneeling in Bethlehem)

Friends, what do you really want for Christmas? Do you want peace, love and new life, or are you satisfied with the Christmas our society has given us? As for me I 'm going to Kneel In Bethlehem maybe I'll see you there too.

So, on behalf of the Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania, may you both be blessed this Christmas season with hope, love, and joy! May the Spirit of Christ lead you on through the balance of your year and may all our commanderies join in defending the faith and giving glory to God. *"Joy to the world, the Lord has come!"*

Joy and peace to you and to your families this Christmas.

S.K. & Rev. Robert A. Witmyer, Grand Prelate

Associate Grand Prelates

S.K. & Rev. David Eichelberger
S.K. & Pastor Joshua Yorks
S.K. & Rev. Nathan Minnich
S.K. & Rev. Brandon Cooper
S.K. Christopher Alexander

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania

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Apartment of the Grand Commander



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Sir Knights All,

Sir Knight and Rev. Robert A. Witmyer, Grand Prelate, thank you for that beautiful Christmas toast. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to you and to everyone serving in the Grand Prelate's office.

Your dedication, your leadership, and most importantly, your Christian faith is an important part of what makes our beloved Order so special. Thank you for the time, effort, and love you give to our Grand Commandery and to your fellow Sir Knights.

As we gather during this blessed Christmas season, I want us to remember that Christmas is about so much more than the gifts, the celebrations, and the fellowship. It is about the greatest gift ever given to mankind — the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

In the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 2, Verse 11, the angel proclaimed:

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

And in Isaiah 9:6, the prophet reminds us:

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given."

These are not simply beautiful words written centuries ago. They are the foundation of our faith and the reason we celebrate Christmas.

As Knights Templar, we are called to be men of faith, men of honor, and men who put Christ first in our lives. I want us to carry the light of Christ beyond these walls — into our homes, our communities, and wherever we may be called to serve.

I want us to remember those who are less fortunate, those who are lonely, those who are suffering, and those who need a helping hand. I want us to be a blessing to others, just as God has blessed us.

May the peace of Christ fill our hearts, may God bless each of you and your families, and may He continue to bless the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania, the Grand Encampment and the United States of America.

Remember our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who is the true reason for the season.

Thank you, Grand Prelate, and thank you to your entire office.

Yours in Templary,
S.K. Troy A. Mock, REGC