

Jerry Pingle

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To the Sir Knights of Texas, Greetings.

During the 162nd Grand Conclave held in San Marcos, it was my privilege to be honored with the rank and title of Grand Commander of Texas. I will strive to fulfill the many requirements set aside during the Templar year 2015-2016. As I follow in the footsteps of those dedicated Sir Knights, I will always look to them, as well as to all the Sir Knights of Texas for the opportunity to serve our Grand Commandery this Templar year.

It is my plan to continue to focus on our many charities. I urge you to consider **purchasing a permanent endowment**, even if it just the **minimum starter badge**. These funds will enable our Grand Commandery to support our various functions and provide support to our many needs throughout this year. Another factor of great interest is our youth organizations. Please be ready and willing to contribute to their fundraisers and projects, as well as other needs that might arise. Remember, they are the future of our fraternal organizations, they will one day possibly be the future Sir Knights and Beauceants/Eastern Star members that will enable this Grand Commandery to continue to function.

The month of May brings many important and special holiday and events. We celebrate and remember our **Mothers on May 10th**, and on **May 25th** we celebrate **Memorial Day**. This celebration remembers those military service personnel who died in the line of duty while defending our country. Those brave men and women gave their lives that we might live in a country that we classify as the **“Land of the Free.”**

The final and most important holiday or event is **Ascension Day** which occurs on **May 14th** this day is set apart for the celebrating that our Lord and Savior has ascended into Heaven where He has gone to prepare a place for all that profess a belief in Him. Please read the prepared message concerning Ascension prepared by our Grand Prelate, and always remember that our Lord and Savior us Risen!!! Thank you again for elevating me to the position of Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Texas, and I look forward to visiting and working with each of you Sir Knights throughout this Templar year.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Jerry Pingle

Grand Commander 2015-2016

Ascension Day Thursday, May 14, 2015

We are taught by the Holy Scriptures that 40 days after **Christ's Resurrection**, he physically ascended (his body lifted off the ground and floating upward) returning to glory at His Father's right hand. This event was visibly witnessed by his disciples on the Mount of Olives, near Jerusalem. The work that his Father sent him to do, was completed. **The Ascension along with Christ's Birth, Crucifixion, and Blessed Resurrection, is one of the major events of his earthly ministry.**

We may ask why did Christ ascend to the Father and what does it mean for us as Christians? The Holy Scriptures teach us:

“In my Father's house are many mansions: If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:2-6 KJV

As these verses tell us, Christ ascended to prepare a place for those who believe in Him, in Heaven. Jesus is the forerunner of all those who follow, with the promise of everlasting life. **Let us praise God, that we have the promise of everlasting life with our Lord in the heavens, because Christ ascended and prepared that place for us.**

Amen.

This message was prepared by
Sir Knight Judge Risley, Grand Prelate 2015-2016

Upcoming Event from the Texas York Rite Calendar:

York Rite Conferences:

May 9, 2015
May 23, 2015

Waco area
Floydada area

Remember to submit festivals and Commandery related events /items of interest to our Webmaster – Sir Knight Michael Blair at email address: mblair1@gmail.com