



THE QUILL

Volume 9, Spring 2026

COMMANDER'S LETTER



My Coseours and Confreres,

As you read these few lines and in turn the rest of this newsletter, I hope they find you and your families in good health, with love and shelter. Both here in the States and around the world, none of these are guaranteed. It is easy to say 'these are difficult times' so please let us remember the words of an old British PM ... *"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty"* - we must have faith, we must have fortitude in our convictions, we much charge forward with compassion and empathy, we must participate in our common future.

In these pages we hope to remind and inform you. You will read about our patron, Saint Joachim, the American Commandery's upcoming Investiture, and about one of the charities the Commandery has repeatedly supported.

Our history, that of The Order of Saint Joachim, continues to be an evergreen topic. As new members join and yearn to know more about The Order, we all continue to collect information thanks to our members, both lay and trained historians. That interest peeks queries into tangential topics and so from time to time the American Commandery gathers online for presentations that both satisfy interests as well as offer an opportunity to gather from afar to share some needed camaraderie. I am pleased to announce that later this spring, we will offer an opportunity to gather again on the topic of the American Congressional Medal of Honor. Details will be announced soon.

We are also thrilled to announce the American's Commandery's 2026 Investiture weekend. The location is Dearborn, Michigan and the venue is the historic Dearborn Inn. For those here in the States (and internationally), the location is easily accessible from Detroit's Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW). For our Canadian Commandery members, you may have reasonable overland options. We hope that many consider joining us. These events are the pinnacle of our gatherings offering an opportunity to meet face-to-face for the first time for many while a chance to see old friends for others. It affords new members a formal induction and the honor of being Knighted in the presence of our Grand Master and those who have been elevated, all in the presence of members of Grand Chapter, our peers, family and friends. The investiture weekend will provide lifelong memories to cherish.



COMMANDER'S LETTER CONTINUED

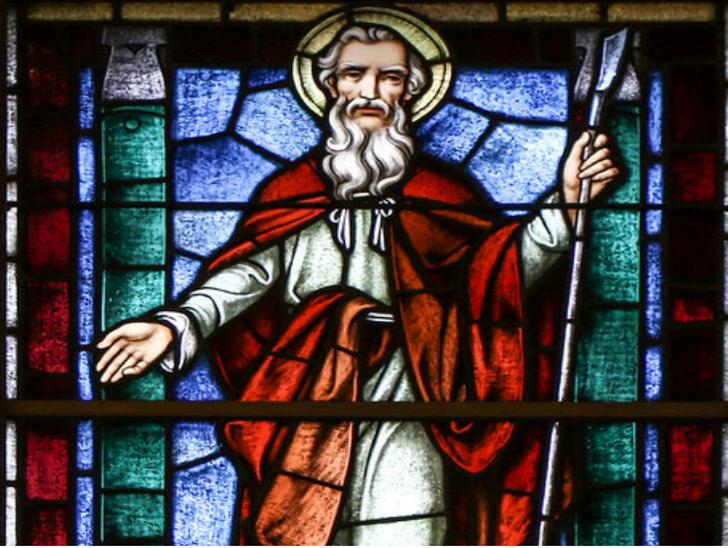
The American Commandery understands that beyond the expense to attend, committing to participate forces us all to put aside politics and the polarization of recent times. Please, remember that The Order does not adhere to any political ideology. *The Order supports its original mission of tolerance extending this to faith, gender, race, nationality, class or sexual orientation. It stands resolutely opposed to sectarian violence and religious extremism in any form.* I say this both personally as well as for all members of the American Commandery – we welcome you with open arms, with love and with humility. Please join us on June 4–6, 2026!

Last, I'd like to remind you, perhaps like a broken record, that The Order at heart is a charitable organization with a mission of giving. Again, sharing the words of Winston Churchill ... *"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give"* – keeping up with yearly Oblations and Commandery dues is both your chosen obligation as well as your duty as a member. Neither The Order nor the American Commandery can fulfill their charitable mission if you, our members, do not fulfill yours. I therefore ask you to look at the section in this newsletter that explains how to take action as soon as possible. In addition, if you have neglected this duty for more than a year, please consider making a donation worth the value of your missed yearly obligation. Your charitable donation is not only tax-deductible but allows the American Commandery to support our charitable endeavors while providing support for those of Grand Chapter.

Let me end by thanking you for your comradeship and service to our Order and the American Commandery. I hope to see you all in June!

Junxit, Amicus, Amor!

H.E. The Chevalier Antonio Maria Wendland, GCJ
Commander, American Commandery
The Order of St. Joachim



THE STORY OF SAINT JOACHIM



Saint Joachim, revered in Christian tradition as the father of the Virgin Mary, is remembered as a model of faith, patience, and trust in God. Although he does not appear in the canonical Scriptures, his story is preserved through early Christian writings, especially the Protoevangelium of James, and has shaped centuries of devotion.

Joachim, a devout man of the Tribe of Judah, was married to Saint Anne. The couple lived faithfully but carried a painful burden: they had no children. In ancient Jewish culture, childlessness was often seen as a sign of divine disfavor, bringing both private sorrow and public shame.

When Joachim traveled to Jerusalem to offer sacrifice at the Temple, he was rejected by the high priest because he had no offspring. Overwhelmed with grief, he withdrew to the desert to pray and fast, seeking understanding and comfort. Anne, heartbroken but steadfast, also turned to prayer, promising that if God granted them a child, she would dedicate that child to His service.

According to tradition, God answered both prayers. An angel appeared separately to Joachim in the wilderness and to Anne at home, announcing that they would conceive a daughter blessed above all women. Reunited at Jerusalem's Golden Gate, the couple embraced with joy and gratitude.

Anne soon conceived and bore Mary, whom they raised with deep devotion and ultimately dedicated to God. Joachim's story endures as a reminder that steadfast faith in times of waiting can yield extraordinary grace, and that God often works most powerfully through perseverance and hope.

Images from Creative Commons



2026 INVESTITURE LOCATION



The Order of Saint Joachim, American Commandery is pleased to announce that its 2026 Investiture will take place June 4-6, 2026, in the Detroit-Dearborn area of Michigan. Continuing the Commandery's practice of alternating Investiture locations between the East Coast and other regions, this gathering follows the most recent Investiture in Washington, DC.

The weekend will center around three carefully selected venues, all in close proximity to one another to ease local travel. The flagship hotel will be The Dearborn Inn, a historic property listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Inn recently completed a comprehensive \$3 million renovation, reopening in March 2025 after a two-year closure—an improvement that ultimately delayed the 2025 Investiture but ensures that guests in 2026 will enjoy an essentially brand-new hotel.

The Investiture Ceremony itself will be held at either Dearborn First United Methodist Church or St. Paul's Lutheran Church, both located just minutes from the hotel. A final selection will be announced once arrangements are complete.

Rounding out the weekend will be a group visit to the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation and Greenfield Village, the largest indoor-outdoor museum complex in the United States and a National Historic Landmark. Its world-renowned exhibits and historical significance make it a fitting cultural complement to the solemnity and celebration of the Investiture.

You can view a 19:11 minute high-quality documentary produced by Joe Engeln about The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation and Greenfield Village by clicking on the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hx8vjdzyNIg>.



2026 INVESTITURE LOCATION CONTINUED



Ticketing information for the Ford Museum and Greenfield Village is available here: <https://www.thehenryford.org/visit/plan-your-visit/admission>. There are options for purchasing passes to both with discounts, or you can choose to visit them individually. **Our group visit will focus only on the Henry Ford Museum so please purchase accordingly.** Visiting Greenfield Village will need to be done on your own and may require a longer stay in Dearborn.

The weekend will include the formal Investiture ceremony, a gala dinner at The Dearborn Inn, and time for fellowship and shared experiences in one of

America's most historically rich regions.

Reflecting on the announcement, H.E. The Chevalier Antonio Wendland, GCJ, remarked: "We are truly excited to bring the 2026 Investiture of the American Commandery to Detroit. The city's history, resilience, and spirit of innovation make it an inspiring place for our Order to gather. The combination of ceremony, celebration, and fellowship promises to make this a memorable occasion for all who attend."

We look forward to welcoming members and guests to the Motor City in June 2026. For additional details or to RSVP, please visit: <https://www.stjoachimorderusa.org/investiture2026.html>.

OBLATIONS REMINDER



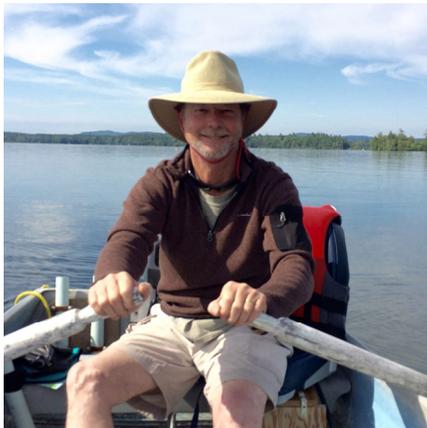
Your oblations to the Order and the Commandery are due March 31, 2026 **AND BOTH MUST BE PAID TO THE AMERICAN COMMANDERY DIRECTLY**. They are £50 for the Order and \$50 for the Commandery, which comes to roughly \$120. This equates to only \$10.00 per month, or \$.33 cents per day. The amount can be paid on our [website](#) in the Member's Only Area or mailed to PO Box 271, Goshen, KY 40026. **Some contributions are tax-exempt as allowed by law, but only if paid to our Commandery.** Failure to pay oblations limits your opportunity for promotion, awards, and ability to participate in events. Your oblations ensure we can continue our charitable work as well as plan for events and gatherings.

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Thanks to your generosity, the American Commandery donated 10% of our total assets to charity for 2025. This amounted to \$2,100. The recipients were Modern Widows Club and All Hands and Hearts. In addition to this amount, \$2,440 was raised by American Commandery members to benefit relief in Ukraine through the Flame of Peace. **Our total giving was \$4,540!** We are thankful to support those in need through the efforts of these noble charities. Learn more about All Hands and Hearts in this issue of The Quill!



Flamme des Friedens
Flame of Peace



IN MEMORIAM

We are sad to learn of the passing of Chevalier James Thompson Shaw KJ on January 25, 2026. Chevalier Shaw led a life of service as a Naval officer and a volunteer firefighter and EMT. Chevalier Shaw participated in the Order since 2020 and he will be missed. To read his obituary, visit: <https://www.clearviewcremation.com/obituaries/james-thompson-shaw>.



CHARITY SPOTLIGHT



All Hands and Hearts

All Hands and Hearts is an international nonprofit devoted to long-term disaster relief and recovery. The organization was founded in response to a persistent challenge in humanitarian work: while emergency aid often arrives quickly, meaningful recovery frequently requires sustained presence long after public attention has moved on. All Hands and Hearts exists to meet that need by committing to communities for the duration of the rebuilding process.

The organization's work is grounded in a community-centered approach. All Hands and Hearts collaborates closely with local leaders, residents, and partner organizations to identify priorities and design recovery projects that reflect local conditions. This model emphasizes respect for community knowledge and ensures that reconstruction efforts are aligned with long-term needs rather than short-term visibility.

A unique feature of All Hands and Hearts is its reliance on a volunteer-powered operational model. Volunteers from many professional and personal backgrounds serve alongside trained staff in service areas. Under careful supervision, volunteers assist with tasks such as debris removal, structural repairs, and rebuilding efforts.

Education has become a significant focus of the organization's recovery efforts. All Hands and Hearts recognizes that the restoration of schools plays a critical role in community stability after a disaster. Reopening safe and functional learning environments allows children to resume their education while offering families a renewed sense of routine. In many cases, rehabilitated schools also serve as community gathering spaces during the broader recovery process.

Since its founding, All Hands and Hearts has responded to disasters in more than 30 countries, addressing the aftermath of earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, wildfires, and other crises. Its work has resulted in the repair and reconstruction of homes, schools, and essential infrastructure. The organization also emphasizes disaster resilience by training local workers in safer construction practices, enabling communities to better withstand future events.

Learn more about All Hands and Hearts by visiting the organization's website at www.allhandsandhearts.org.

