My Brother Sir Knights,

This September marks the 25th anniversary of the attacks of September 11, 2001. For those of us who remember that day, the images and emotions remain vivid. We remember those who lost their lives, the first responders who ran toward danger, the members of our Armed Forces who answered the call to defend our nation, and the countless families whose lives were forever changed.

As Knights of the Fourth Degree, September invites us to reflect on the virtue of patriotism. True patriotism is more than pride in our country. It is a commitment to the common good and a willingness to serve our neighbors and our nation. It calls us to remember the sacrifices of others and to recognize the responsibilities that come with the freedoms we enjoy.

Our Catholic faith reminds us that love of country is properly ordered within our love of God and neighbor. Patriotism, therefore, should lead us not to division or hostility, but to greater service, sacrifice, unity, and concern for the dignity of every person.

As we commemorate the 25th anniversary of September 11, may we pray for those who died, those who continue to bear the wounds of that day, and all who serve our nation today. And may we, as Fourth Degree Knights, renew our commitment to be faithful Catholics, devoted citizens, and servants of our country.

Vivat Jesus!

District Friar

In Christ,

Fr. PJ Brandimarti

Pastor
St. John the Baptist Parish, Knox County
St. Luke Church, Danville
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