



## VIRGINIA SUPPLEMENT

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Knightly Greetings!

This month, I have researched one of our most cherished symbols:

The Crown and the Cross is a familiar symbol in Christianity and is a peculiar logo of the Knights Templar. As Knights Templar are founded upon Christian principles so too are our symbols.



To point out the obvious, this symbol is the combination or uniting of two separate symbols - the crown and the cross. United this symbol has its own unique history and meaning, but separately each symbol has a much larger history and symbolic interpretation.

*Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.  
Revelations 2:10*

*Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.  
James 1:12*

Together they represent the reward awaiting in Heaven that the Faithful will receive after the suffering and trials of this life on Earth; the cross secures, and the crown assures. Some have interpreted it to stand for the meaning of the life, ministry, message, and glory of our Blessed Redeemer, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Crown, by itself, has traditionally been a symbol of authority and sovereignty, whether it is governance over a society/community or over oneself. Head coverings, like crowns, are also seen as a symbol of victory like you would see with the wreath or garland.

Symbolically we can see through its circular shape it denotes perfection, which Heaven is seen as, and eternal life, and while wearing it we unite the spiritual world with this material world where the sovereign can receive divine inspiration to justly rule.

In the Knight Templar Orders, there are many crosses used. For the Sir Knights of the Templar Orders and Christians, the cross reminds us of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, but is much older than the Christian religion.

It is important to note that neither the Latin nor Passion Cross was used as a Christian symbol until around the 7th century. Prior to this, the lamb and fish were the most common Christian symbols. This style of cross has been seen throughout history in such places like Africa, the Far East, Assyria, Phoenicia, India, Persia, Mesopotamia, and Scandinavia. To these ancient cultures, the cross represented the Sun or has been a symbol of Earth and nature with the number Four representing the Cardinal directions, the changing seasons, the four winds, the quarters of the moon, and the alchemical elements. Like the crown does, the cross may also emblematically represent the union of Heaven and Earth. The number four also reminds us of the Four Evangelists and their Gospels. By it are we reminded of time and the delineation of seasons, as it was on the Fourth Day that God put lights in the firmament to separate light from darkness, to mark days, and to outline the passing of seasons and time.

For us, therefore, the Crown and the Cross symbolizes not only our Christian faith, but also our Christian leadership role, particularly within our wider Masonic fraternity.

With All Knightly Courtesy,

Peter R. Spring, KCT  
Grand Commander