

*Pennsylvania
Central District*



Fourth Degree

2026 DISTRICT FRIARS REPORT

At the 2026 Biennial Meeting of the District Friars, held at the Urban Co-Works Conference Center in Scranton, Pennsylvania, on Saturday, April 11, 2026, the following reflection and exhortation was offered.

Drawing upon the Gospel account of St. Thomas, commonly known as “Doubting Thomas,” it is helpful to consider not only his desire for tangible proof of the Resurrection, but also the deeper struggle he experienced. Thomas appears not simply to doubt, but to wrestle with the apparent loss of meaning. Having placed his trust in Christ, he is now confronted with His death and finds himself unable to reconcile what has happened. In this, his doubt reflects a difficulty in seeing the purpose behind the events.

This dynamic can be applied to the experience of fraternal and parish life. At times, efforts within councils and assemblies may not yield the expected results. Events may have low participation, fundraising goals may not be met, and membership growth may be slower than anticipated. In such moments, it is easy to question the value or purpose of these efforts and to hesitate in giving one’s full commitment without first seeing clear and measurable outcomes.

In contrast, the example of St. John offers a different perspective. Upon hearing the testimony of Mary Magdalene, he runs to the tomb, sees that it is empty, and believes. He has not yet seen or encountered the risen Christ, yet he recognizes that there is a greater purpose unfolding. His belief reflects a trust in the work of God beyond what is immediately visible.

This contrast provides an important exhortation: to move away from a reliance on visible results and toward a deeper trust in God’s work. It is not always necessary to see the end result or fully understand every initiative in order to remain committed. Not every effort will produce measurable success. Even in Christ’s own ministry, many turned away. Yet the mission continued through perseverance, prayer, and faithful outreach.

While it is encouraging to recognize tangible signs of growth such as increased participation or progress toward membership goals these should not be the primary foundation of motivation. Rather, the work of the fraternity must remain rooted in faith, trusting that Christ is present and active within councils, assemblies, and all fraternal efforts.

Finally, continued prayer is urged for all brother knights, especially those who are suffering or facing hardship, including those affected by recent tragedy and loss. In particular, prayers are offered for those impacted by recent events and for deceased members of the fraternity. Through mutual support and prayer, the fraternity is strengthened to carry out its mission with greater faith and perseverance.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Michael Boris
District Friar