

Grand Commandery of New York

January News



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Grand Commander

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FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY

Christian Greetings Sir Knights,

Happy New Year! This is always an appropriate time to reflect back on the year that has passed with both joy and disappointment—a debriefing of sorts that can encourage Hope that this new year will yield plumper fruits of our labors. A time to humbly acknowledge that we did not fulfill all of those goals we set a year ago. A chance to extend some Christian Kindness to yourself for the efforts you did exercise in the forms of Charity—a renewed Faith that your actions this year can exceed those of this past.

I pray that this new year will bring a renewed Hope for a safer and interactive atmosphere, enabling us to gather in friendship and brotherly Love. It seems to me to be more evident as time passes that our moments shared in our Asylums and Lodges are more important than I realized. We need to revitalize our attendance at Conclaves and to renew our vows we have so solemnly assumed. The current state of affairs throughout this world is evidence that society needs us to lead by example for the improvement of all mankind. I read somewhere that in our everyday life, we should exemplify the teaching of our Order and prove to all men the value of our Masonic Knighthood. That cannot be any clearer or more profound and prophetic.

This may be a new year, but I believe what we need most is to revisit our history and principles which have distinguished us—and we trust will long continue to adorn and characterize these noble Orders. Let us join together again as in the days of old, with Faith and Fortitude ensuring that good men in the future can enjoy that which we have had the good fortune to experience and appreciate. Let us be that shining light to others by our exemplary conduct. What we are and not who we are will prove our mettle. Take up your sword and join me.

Courteously with Brotherly Love,
SK Dennis S. Davis, R.E.G.C.

Upcoming Events

Zone #4 Pilgrimage, March 19, 2022, St. George's Commandery No. 37, Scotia, NY
Frederick A. Beitter Symposium, January 22, 2022, Albany, NY
(Details can be found on the Grand Commandery website)

Grand Prelate's Corner

It does not seem possible that another year has begun. I pray that 2022 will be filled with hope, peace, prosperity and good health for all. We start each New Year off with great expectations and New Year resolutions only to find that maybe they were too high of an expectation for us to achieve. So with every year there is the possibility of doing better than the last and yet we need to focus our eyes, hearts and minds on doing the best we can even with the cogs of things of our lives or of our world.

Dreaming of a better world and life should always be part of existence and we need to at least attempt to make a difference. Without our dreams of a better way we will all become stale and fall prone to living in hopelessness and darkness, but resolutions are not the answers to our problems. Don't get me wrong. I'm all for goals and the motivation that these resolutions inspire in people, but a New Year's resolution is for personal growth and personal gain.

While there is nothing wrong with personal growth, I think that I have a natural inclination towards comfort. I don't like rocking the boat. While I know that God calls us to be boat-rockers, my insides often tremble at the thought of it. The New Year shines a new light among us. We just celebrated the coming of the Light of the World--Jesus Christ anew into this world at Christmas. If every good and perfect gift is from above and God looks at us as His perfect children, we should have a lot more love for ourselves.

We should make resolutions not for the purpose of loving ourselves more upon their completion of these resolutions, but from a place that says—I love myself enough to change. I want to honor my steadfast Father who designed me in His image, His perfect image. I want to show reverence for Him with the way I love myself and the way I treat this temple He has gifted me.

The key isn't changing in order to love ourselves. The key is: loving ourselves enough to make a positive change that honors our Maker. Will you join me in the revision of the resolution mindset? Can we say that we love our Father, we love ourselves, and due to his unchanging love, we will continually strive to honor him with the decisions we daily make?

Now that is a New Year's resolution I hope we all can make and achieve.