



Missouri Supplement

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It's a New Year!

GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights,

I hope this New Year finds you all well. I would like to start this message by expressing my appreciation to all the Sir Knights across the State who have agreed to participate as members of the newly formed Membership Committees. Sir Knight Gregory J. Walker, Chairman, and the other members of the Missouri State Membership Committee have been working very hard to provide you with the information and guidance needed to promote not only Knight Templary, but York Rite Masonry in general. Many of the Commanderies have had success using the presentations that are being suggested by the Membership Committee. I want each Commandery in the State of Missouri to reach out to either Sir Knight Walker or myself with questions or concerns about the quarterly membership reporting process that is required for each Commandery. We know that this is new and may be challenging, but it is an important requirement from the Grand Encampment.

The Grand York Rite Grand Session and the Grand Commandery Drill Competition will be here before we know it. In 2019, Sir Knight Ralph S. Cantrell, Jr., Grand Drill Instructor of the Grand Commandery, held a Drill Instruction Workshop to provide the Grand Officers and the Regional Grand Commanders detailed instruction in the Class A, Class B, and Class C drill tactics. It is my goal for all the Commanderies in Missouri to open your stated meetings with at least a Class C drill tactic using hand salutes. I want each Commandery in the State that needs help with the drill tactics to reach out to your Regional Grand Officer, Regional Grand Commander, or myself, so we may assist you in the drill tactics. If the Commanderies in the State practice the drill at their stated meeting, then it will be much easier to participate in the Grand Commandery Drill Competition during Grand Session. We would like for every Commandery in the State to participate in the 2020 Grand Commandery Drill Competition.

In closing, I truly hope that each of you have a great New Year and enjoy your time in Masonry. Each day we spend in this Fraternity is a great day and I would like for each of you to help us make our Grand Commandery better and to make Masonry better.

He is Risen!

Sir Knight Clark A. McLemore, Grand Commander

LIFE

We receive a never-ending litany of messages about how to live well, many of them contradictory, and all of it somewhat overwhelming. And in the midst of this advice overload, mental health issues soar, debt skyrockets, and we are left with the bewildered wondering, "What does it mean, really, to live a good life?"

The Teacher who narrates the book of Ecclesiastes is famous for saying, "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity!" The word "vanity" means "vapor" or "breath." Read this way, the Teacher of Ecclesiastes appears to suggest that we should eat and drink and be joyful, making sure we've got good drink and a good life partner. You're going to die, and so is everyone else, so live it up now.

And then in the book of Mark, we have Jesus whose advice for a rich man who comes to him asking how to inherit eternal life is to sell everything that he owns and give the money to the poor. Sell the nice clean clothes and the fine wine suggested by the Wise Teacher of Ecclesiastes, give it all away, and then you'll live a good life. The man goes away sad. Perhaps we would have, too.

There is no law against love, against joy, or against peace. All we have is the daily, often mundane work of living life, in all its complexity and challenge. Sometimes, we will do something that we think is loving, and end up hurting someone. And then, we will have to go back to our life's drawing board, and start over. To take a deep breath, and remind ourselves of compassion and grace. And it will be difficult. And there is no easy way out. Nothing to do other than to turn to God in prayer, and turn back to our life and try again.

SMILING

Smile at your wife. Smile at your husband. Smile at your children. Smile at each other – it doesn't matter who it is – just share a smile. And that simple act will help you to grow in greater love for each other.

BLESSINGS

May you be blessed with new insights and inspiration. May you be graced with quiet moments of simplicity and reflection. May you travel to new places inside yourself.

May you be supported by your loved ones when you need them. May you be a source of strength to those around you. May you receive the embraces of your parents, your children, and long lost friends.

May you say goodbye to habits and thoughts that have become a burden for you. May you forgive those who have hurt you and may you have the courage to make amends when needed.

May you build the world that you have always wanted for yourself and others. May you hear the joy and the sorrow of this great universe in which we live. And may you – and all of us – be blessed with peace.