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We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year's Day. -Edith Lovejoy Pierce

Greetings Sir Knights,

Welcome to the year 2020!

In the modern mind, 2020 (or 20/20) brings up notions of clear vision. I think that is particularly appropriate here at the beginning of a new year. Most of us spend at least a little time each January sifting through the rooms of our lives looking for things to fix, improve, exclude, work on or just delete altogether. We like to make New Year's Resolutions, those little, half-hearted promises we make to ourselves, then tease out a little guilt when we fail to keep them. But they do serve a purpose. They help us with the self-evaluation that comes through trial and error, growth and successes. We learn what works for us and what doesn't. It focuses us on our truly good intentions and helps us recognize our places where we need a little work. These are good things. A little change can do great good.

Winston Churchill once said, "To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often." I think there's wisdom there. Too often the world around us changes much faster than we do, and we may not see the potential for good in those changes. Maybe what we really need is to adjust our view of ourselves in relation to the changing world. There is so much potential and opportunity all around us to make the world a little better. We can be stronger, more kind, more tolerant of the eccentricities of others, value the people that make up our lives and see the spark of the Divine in everyone... including ourselves.

This year, let's open the New Year with clearer vision. Look for the opportunities to make even the smallest difference. Let's deliberately see the potential in those around us and in ourselves. Let's spot the chances that are dropped before us every day.

Engage in Life! Purposefully be so busy becoming the person you were created to be, that the things that hold us back may drop away more and more each day. Every day is a new start. The past is no more an indicator of the future than we allow it to be. Learn from the past, then leave it there. If we are focused on the past or the future, then we aren't truly engaged in the present. And the moment that is now, is all that really exists right now.

I want for us all to be so focused on living our lives to the fullest, loving our lives and those that make it lovable, that we have no time for hate, regret or fear. For truly, hate and regret are just products of fear and, as the Bible says, "Perfect Love casts out all fear."

There is nothing that demonstrates potential like a blank piece of paper. We have a chance, today, to start fresh with a clean unmarked page on which we will write our story. I hope it is inspiring, good by choice, or at least interesting!

Write your story. Don't let it be written by others and don't let any of it remain blank. Every missed opportunity, compromise, every time we knowingly short-sell ourselves or fail to see the potential our in ourselves and others, is a blank space. But one good try, one good word of encouragement will fill volumes in your story and the stories of those in your life. You are a Life-Changer for someone!

There is truth in the words of Vern McLellan who said:

"What the New Year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the New Year."

2020... clear vision.