

Maryland Supplement

Serving our Community and our Masonic Fraternity

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My Fellow Sir Knights,

This month I invited our Eminent Grand Prelate, Charles Beckhardt, to favor us with his thoughts on our faith during what has been a difficult period in time for all of us. He writes:

Greetings and Blessings Sir Knights

First I would like to thank our Grand Commander for giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts with you.

Over the past several months we have faced a pandemic called Covid-19. This virus has spread throughout the world and changed our lives dramatically.

What concerns me are those believers in GOD who have used this as an opportunity to blame GOD for allowing this to happen. This is not the first time GOD has been blamed for our own destruction.

Time and space does not allow me to go into depth on this issue however I strongly disagree with this concept. I don't believe I could serve and worship a GOD who wants to punish his creations with sickness, suffering, and death.

In my opinion it started with Adam and Eve when they disobeyed GOD and ate the fruit from the tree of knowledge, Genesis 3:1-7. From that moment on they knew the difference between good and evil. And throughout the generations we, who are GOD's children, have made decisions both good and bad.

When we make decisions that are bad, we create some type of destruction which in turn creates the possibility of suffering and sometimes death.

My beliefs from childhood and what I have taught is that GOD is a loving, caring, and forgiving GOD. He loved his children so much HE sent HIS SON to live amongst us to teach love over hate, to care for each other, and to help feed and clothe those in need.

Very Eminent Deputy Grand Commander Austin has made this his project for the year. He has asked each Commandery to contact its membership to see how they are doing during these difficult times and has offered the Grand Commandery's support and help in this effort.

This is the GOD, Jesus Christ, I want to serve.
The ONE who will forgive me when I make bad decisions.
The ONE who is with me when I am alone.
The ONE who will one day welcome me to live in HIS FATHER'S House.

Finally, let's not blame GOD for the problems of our world. Put the blame where it belongs, that is, our bad decision making.
Remember, your answers are found in the verses of the old hymn

“What a Friend we have in Jesus”

In His service + Blessing

Charles Beckhardt
Eminent Grand Prelate

Everyone stay safe and nurture your faith in God.

Yours in service to Christ,

Chuck Warns
Right Eminent Grand Commander