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“The behavior is the "fruit," and the heart is the "root." The heart is where the seeds are planted.” -Someone Really Smart

Greetings Sir Knights,

I’m writing this on May 21st. Today is traditional day of the Ascension Day Feast. As one person put it, Ascension Day is when Jesus started working from home. It’s also Emergency Medical Services Day, another commemoration of selfless service. What poignant examples of putting others first and doing the Good Work.

By the time this reaches you around July 1st, I hope we will have been able to meet and see each other. I think our lives are a little bit less colorful and fulfilling without the friendly, comforting presence of our Brothers. We need that fellowship like we need air. It defines us as Masons. With a little luck, we may be able to meet in person soon.

I have good news, The Knights Templar Education Foundation is up and running again. We are fully funded and are distributing our first scholarships in many years. Congratulations to the three recipients who are working so hard to improve themselves. That isn’t as easy to do with the restrictions on schools and schedules.

Things will be a little different in the upcoming months as we figure out to open up again. Some new ways of doing things are emerging. Many Masonic bodies are using virtual meetings to get together and share. We all benefit when we make gathering a priority, whatever form that may take.

With all Fraternal fondness and respect,

-Michael Daniels Grand Commander

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPUTY GRAND COMMANDER:

It is strange that for several months now our messages must begin with phrases like “at the time this is being written...” signaling the level of uncertainty we are all dealing with. We simply do not know what the next few weeks have in store, much less the next two months. All of the plans that had were prepared for this year have been severely disrupted. Nonetheless, we must keep moving forward and adapting to our circumstances.

Some of the adaptations being explored include online video meetings and educational sessions. The present conditions have turned our attention to the potential this technology holds for enriching our experience in the fraternity, as well as making it easier to reach out and connect with our brethren all over the state (and all over the world, for that matter). Perhaps this may become a new avenue to more efficiently communicate across the state without the inconveniences of lengthy travel. It may also be a good way to distribute educational programs or information on Grand Commandery charities, public events, and other initiatives. Many of us are already operating in this fashion in our professional lives, and I hope this will speed its implantation and adoption where it makes sense.

Yet while video conferencing presents numerous possibilities, its limitations are becoming better understood as well. There really is no substitute for meeting in person with one another. When conditions finally permit us to resume meeting in our regular conclaves, perhaps once again we may be able to make meaningful plans and schedules.

Until that time arrives, I hope that all of you stay healthy and safe. Just as the openings of my messages echo the uncertainty of previous months, so do my conclusions. We will do our best to keep you informed of any forthcoming developments for the Grand Commandery of North Carolina and your local bodies.

Fraternally,
Ludwik Wodka
Deputy Grand Commander.