

Louisiana Supplement

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Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Louisiana



Dear Companions,

I take this time to send words of encouragement to each of you. In the past couple of weeks, we have gone through some difficult times and it's anticipated that there will be a few more weeks of challenge. At first, we were told to not have groups of 50 or more, then that became 10 or more and now the government is telling us to stay at home. Someone once said that "Home is where the Heart is." Our home should be a sanctuary, a place of togetherness with our families. Just remember that God has promised us that He is ever present in times of good and times of trouble.

I am reminded of what the Scripture says:

- *Psalm 46:1-3 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.*
- *Proverbs 18:10 The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run into it and are safe.*
- *Nehemiah 8:10 Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.*
- *John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

In closing, I offer this prayer,

Dear God,

You alone are worthy of all glory and praise! You are not shocked by the state of the world, and nothing is impossible for you. Today, we're proclaiming that You will be glorified through this pandemic. Your name will be praised throughout the earth. Pierce the darkness. Shine brighter than the fear of death, loneliness or economic ruin. When we look back on this moment in history, may we be filled with joy as we remember the revival, hope and peace that came from this season. Continue to draw this hurting world back to You.

AMEN.

May our God continue to bless you and keep you, especially during these trying times

Al Simms
Excellent Grand Chaplain
Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons

2020 Grand Officers of the Grand Commandery of Louisiana

Greetings all Valiant Sir Knights of the Temple.

Membership, Retention & Growth - with that as our focus, we need to plant new seeds wherever we can. The fruit from this labor may take years to ripen, but the harvest will be worth the effort. To this end the first official act of 2020 was to create a new appointed position in our hierarchy, I decided to begin addressing our future growth by appointing a "Squire to the Grand Commander." This will, if carried on by my successors, allow each Grand Commander the option to make such an appointment, thus creating interest in our youth to join our ranks when they come of age. This action has been so well received by the Sir Knights, I think we should expand on it by also having the commander of each local commandery do the same. We should lead by example, by involving our youth in this way, we will most assuredly see our membership grow.

Retention, this issue is directly reflective of the diversity in our organization's membership.

However, I find the solution to be relatively simple, each member MUST receive something at each meeting, or they will not continue to attend. I am not speaking of tangible things, but they must be enlightened in some way or they will grow discontent and find other interest to occupy their time. Ritual studies though important, are not the answer, the younger members of our fraternity are more interested in its history, and Templar history is rich, it offers a never-ending source of inspirational topics. We should seek out their interest, leverage the historical data already available, and continually feed their appetite for knowledge.

Yes, we need to seek out all ages, but when seeking younger members, let's not forget their families. Many of these young men have, or will have children, and we need to include them when and where we can. If they must choose between fraternity and family, fraternity will lose every time. I truly believe, family involvement is the key to recruiting the younger members, we so desperately need.

And remember Sir Knights,

"Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give Glory"

Rory Bozeman,

RE Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of the state of Louisiana

"Chivalry, Christianity, Templary - A Way of Life"

"Every Christian Mason should be a Knight Templar"