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Greetings Sir Knights,

It is November already! November is the time we begin tidying up all the loose ends left from the current year and begin executing our plans for the next. It is the perfect time to reflect and be thankful for all the ways we have been blessed. 2020 has posed some real challenges and we will probably never see things the same way again. But we can be thankful for our family and friends and our whole network of people that make our lives beautiful. Say a prayer of thanks for them today.

I have a few ideas that during our quiet time while things are on hold, that would be good for us to tackle.

First, we need Certified Instructors. There are so few who are carrying the load for the state and our ritual work as well as Tactics and Protocol may be suffering from disuse. Please consider getting certified in the Commandry. It's easier than you might think. You can certify on one Order at a time and you have a year to complete all the work. A Certification lasts five years! You also get the right to wear the Certified Lecturer's jewel, given by the Grand Commandry, as well as the gratitude and recognition of your peers.

I will issue a challenge: I'd like to see each District to certify at least one Instructor and each Commandry certify in at least two Orders. The forms are available online at the links below. Step up and get started now. Reach out to me or your District Lecturer with any questions.

Red Cross: <http://www.ncgyorkrite.org/gckt/RC.pdf>

Malta: <http://www.ncgyorkrite.org/gckt/OM.pdf>

Order of the Temple: <http://www.ncgyorkrite.org/gckt/OT.pdf>

In that same theme, many of you may not know that there is a Knight Templar Funeral Service. From time to time, we get requests for these. This is an important and serious service to honor our fallen Sir Knights, and they deserve the best we can give. I encourage you to put together teams that can execute this ceremony with the gravitas and reverence it deserves. There are a few versions out there, but the official one is still the one in the green Manual of Public Ceremonies, as well as a new shorter version. I have official copies of the Old Funeral Service, which is found in the Manual of Public Ceremonies, as well as the New Funeral Service that was recently adopted. The Grand Encampment plans for the new version to be included in the next printing of the Manual of Public Ceremonies.

Look it over and get familiar with it. You never know when a Sir Knight may wish this for his funeral.

Another way to help stay active during this time is to promote our youth organizations. I and some of the Grand Commandry Line Officers are at-large DeMolay Advisors. This is a great way to engage with these young men and make a real difference in young lives that are full of unlimited potential! If you are interested, contact me or your local DeMolay Chapter.

Christmas Observances may have to be a little different this year, but I strongly urge you to have one. It rounds out our year with a special service that allows us to present our Christian heritage. There are very few Masonic organizations that encourage that, and we are the premier Christian Masonic body. Please don't let this Holiday season pass without at least gathering, if we are able, virtually or otherwise. This is important. There are several ways to do this. Feel free to reach out to me or any Grand Commandry Officer for ideas and assistance.

We will shortly be deep in the Holiday season. Make ways to remember your Brothers, friends and especially family in meaningful ways. They are what make life beautiful. With all Fraternal fondness and respect,

-Michael Daniels, Grand Commander

“Charity is to will and do what is just and right in every transaction..”

– Emanuel Swedenborg