



**MICHAEL T. DANIELS, R.E.G.C.**

3902 David St.  
Archdale NC 27263  
[mdanielus@yahoo.com](mailto:mdanielus@yahoo.com)



Editor: Larry Aydlett, KT – [larry.aydlett@gmail.com](mailto:larry.aydlett@gmail.com)

“The unfortunate need people who will be kind to them; the prosperous need people to be kind to.”

– Aristotle

Greetings, Sir Knights,

I was recently struck by an act of kindness that was so unexpected and profound, that it made me take stock of myself. It was simple, just one very young child recognizing the need in another and offering to help. It was instinctive to them. Somewhere along the way, we lose some of that natural charitable nature. Too often, we think of charity as a duty or an annual task. This lets us off easy by deferring our responsibility to our administrative constructs. We also tend to think of money when the word Charity comes up. But money is a lousy way of keeping score and implies winners and losers. It carries the idea of a zero-sum game where there is a clear winner and a clear loser. That isn't how life or love plays out. Unless we collaborate and unless we consider us as one and unless we can see and nurture the Divine in another, we miss the whole point. When one loses, we all lose.

But the word Charity (Carus, Caritas) is as much verb as anything.

It means ACTION for another without hope of recompense. DOING for others who cannot help themselves or for you. HELPING those who can never pay us back. Remaining SILENT when words can hurt. SPEAKING when Justice can win. Being ANONYMOUS when glory is well deserved. “Let not the left hand know what the right hand is doing.” (Matthew 6:3)

It is GOING outside ourselves and realizing that truly is the only place we will ever be genuinely fulfilled.

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

From the Deputy Grand Commander:

Greetings, Sir Knights

One of the most arduous trials that our ancient brethren had to endure while defending pilgrims and the Christian religion was withstanding a siege. This meant that the city or fortress where the knights were encamped was surrounded and attacked by hostile enemy forces, often for long periods of time. Cut off from food, supplies, and escape, the knights and other inhabitants of the city were forced to undergo an extended period of privation and hardship. Hunger and disease attacked the population when the enemy didn't. Yet it was on these occasions that the knights within rose to the challenge and faced their enemies with gallantry and fortitude.

The most famous instance was in 1565, when the Knights of St. John, numbering only 500 knights (and 6,000 other soldiers) were besieged by 40,000 Ottoman Turks on the island of Malta. The fighting was extremely bloody and intense, with numerous incidents of horror and atrocity. But after three months, the gigantic Ottoman fleet suffered heavy losses and began to get ravaged by disease. An estimated 25,000 Ottomans died in the fighting. When reinforcements began to arrive to relieve the Knights, the Turks lifted the siege to return home with what remained of their army. It remains one of the most famous victories in the history of the order.

We, too, have been under a kind of metaphorical siege for the last five months. We have all shared in the difficulties these times have brought upon us, some of us suffering more than others. Many people we know been forced out of work due to the lockdown and economic reversals. Now is the time to reach out to one another and be there for one another. We do not know how long this is going to last. The future is as uncertain now as it was back in March. Your friends and family are looking to you to be strong, to be brave, and to be Knights.

Fraternally,

Ludwik Wodka

Deputy Grand Commander