

## WISCONSIN SUPPLEMENT

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Charles M. Olson  
Grand Commander

Greetings, Sir Knights!

I hope this finds you and your family well. As I write this we are in the midst of an early July, summer heatwave. Temps are in the 90s with enough humidity my lawn is still growing, though mostly just the weeds. Going outside doesn't work, and we've been 'cooped up' in our homes since March. We're in the midst of a pandemic, racial tensions, protests and riots, a presidential campaign commercial assault, and murder hornets are on their way. I need my Masonry now more than ever!

Like many of you, Masonry has become a very important part of my life, often finding me at meetings more often than at home. September is a particularly busy month as we return from the 'dark'-ness of summer. Normally ritual work is ramping up, preparations are being made for our full-form conferrals of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross and Order of Malta, Thanksgiving and Christmas. While just around the corner, the new year brings 'Inspection Season'.

The question now is, will any of this happen? And that is the most frustrating part of the whole thing; not knowing. Your Grand Officers have been making plans to continue business as usual, fully knowing there is a very good chance those plans will have to be cancelled. We will await our deadlines and cancel what we must, but when our activities do resume, we will be prepared! One thing you CAN bet on... this Templar Year will be unlike any other. With determination we can make it a great year, no matter what more curves 2020 may throw at us.

This uncertain time does offer us great opportunity. As you resume your virtual conclaves I hope you are engaging in Masonic discourse. Virtual meetings allow us to do our 'business' without the threat of a possible exposure to the virus. It isn't the same as meeting 'in-person', but it does give us the opportunity to talk, support and learn from each other. While technically we cannot 'do ritual', we can certainly talk about it! Rehearse the cues. Talk about the floor work and timing. Hand down tips on how to memorize a troublesome passage. Dig into the little stuff that often gets forgotten. Have a Grand Officer join you to offer a few tips on 'upping your game'. You would be amazed how much dust you can knock off with just a few 'virtual repetitions'. And any 'work' is greatly appreciated by your newer members who are eager to learn. Plant a seed and watch how fast it grows.

This is a time to educate and discuss, evaluate and plan. We've seen fraters who were often unable to attend conclave tune in virtually now that they don't have to drive to attend a meeting. Without all the 'drive time' I have had more time to reach out to our elderly and shut-ins. I've had some great discussions while checking in with our elder fraters. Use this newfound 'time' to your advantage. Now is not the time to sit back and 'take a break', but to ramp up and get to our work of being Templar Masons. Don't let a little ole' bug keep you from getting it done!

Let us know if anyone is in distress. Help those who need assistance. Continue to do the work of the blessed Emanuel. In these times of strife and uncertainty, be the example for all to follow. Let your light so shine... and make it BRIGHT! Until we are able to meet again, I look forward to seeing you 'virtually' and look forward to the day I may...

See you in the Asylum!  
Courteously,  
Charles (Mick) Olson, KCT, REGC

Greetings Sir Knights,

As summer stretches into longer and warmer days and gardens hit full production, it makes me reflect. I reflect on all the work and effort it took to get the garden put in. From starting seeds indoors, to protecting everything from the last frosts of the spring. Templary is no different you need to put the work in early on, to reap the benefits.

The wonderful thing about being a Knight Templar is we can start sowing the seed at any time, we do not have to wait for spring. I suggest starting with a small, simple seed. The seed of participation by making a personal commitment, to make it to the next commandery meeting, to take on a new part, to help that Sir Knight that just cannot get his uniform in order, or by helping that Sir Knight that is uncomfortable driving at night but would still like to be part of this wonderful organization. Make one small personal commitment and do something. Then share it with your Commandery Brothers and challenge them to do the same. Watch what happens! ! ! !

It is truly amazing how one small act can make such a big and lasting positive impact.

So right here and now, I challenge EVERYONE that takes the time to read this.... Plant a seed, make one simple action, and see the impact it makes. And when you see me throughout this inspection season, please come tell me about what you did. I look forward to hearing about all the little actions that happen throughout the entire state.

May god bless and keep you and your family safe.

Through Knighthood- your servant,  
Michael Roering, Grand Captain General

Grand Commandery Knights Templar Wisconsin