



The Florida Knight

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Greetings Sir Knights,

Happy Easter!! If you happened to be receiving this before Easter, I hope you take the opportunity to join our Grand Master and the other Grand Encampment Officers for the Virtual Easter Sunday Observance. Information regarding this event will be posted on the Grand York Rite Florida website and on the website of the Grand Encampment. If this is reaching after this joyous Holiday, I trust you were able to spend it with family and friends.

The word Easter is related to the word east and as we are told by our ritual, the east should remind us of the sun rising which is symbolic of the Worshipful Master rising to open and govern his Lodge. In another sense, it is also emblematical of new days and new beginnings. For many people Easter is the time to dye eggs, eat chocolate bunnies, and celebrate the start of Spring. Unfortunately, these things are as empty as the plastic eggs and as hollow as the numerous chocolate bunnies many of us will consume. The real meaning of Easter encompasses much more, as it is truly about new days and new beginnings because of the Resurrection. For Christians, the Resurrection of Jesus means that the Son of God paid the price for our sins and rose again to reconcile us to God. The true meaning of Easter is that Jesus is the Lord of new beginnings, new days, and new lives.

During this time, I encourage all of you to reflect on the new lives we each are given every day. When you wake up each morning and place your feet on the floor you are starting a new life. Nothing from the previous day can be changed, but endless possibilities do exist for the coming hours of the current day and beyond. Many believe that Jesus gave his life so that we would have a new life with God. What we often fail to realize is that the new life is given to us again each day. We are given a new chance to build our relationships with others, a new chance to correct the wrongs from the previous day, and a new chance to utilize the talents and abilities that were given to us by Him.

Many Masonic scholars have written at length about the similarities of Hiram Abif and Jesus. Though Hiram did not live again after being raised, we as the representative of Hiram did get "reborn" upon our raising in a metaphorical sense. We were reborn into a Brotherhood that continues daily to help the world around us to become a better place. Our great Fraternity helps us to conciliate friendships that might not otherwise have been possible and rejoice at the successes of our Brothers and friends.

I hope during this Easter Season you will take some time to appreciate just how much your relationship with God has changed because of your Masonic membership. Our teachings in the Lodge, Chapter, Council and Commandery should be stepping-stones to a closer relationship with God, and it is for this reason that I am so thankful that the various Commanderies throughout Florida were able to participate in the many Festivals held last month.

Attending some of the Festivals around the State reaffirmed my conviction that we as an organization are on an upward trend. The enthusiasm for the ritual and the general feeling of brotherhood could be witnessed everywhere I traveled. As such I request that you do not let this enthusiasm wain, but instead pass it along to the new Sir Knights so that they can become involved making your local commandery a force for the good of Masonry in your area. If your commandery has a full line of officers, make sure you find something for these new Sir Knights to do. There are small ritual parts, committees, and a variety of other things that these new Sir Knights can accomplish while they are waiting to be appointed as officers. Remember that everyone is not a ritualist, so try not to make these Sir Knights feel that they need to start taking large parts in the ceremonies immediately. Ours is one of the few Masonic organizations that does not follow the Hiram Legend and thus we do not have the familiar setting of the "Lodge" ritual that our Companions have in the Chapter and Council. Therefore, it might take a few meetings sitting on the sidelines for these new Sir Knights to acclimate to their new settings in our commanderies. When a Master Mason joins another Masonic body, he is only joining one organization. However, when they join the Order of the Temple, they have also joined their local Chapter and Council during the same weekend. This can be a little overwhelming because these are three separate and distinct organizations with their own officers, rituals, etc. Assuming these new Companions and Sir Knights can immediately take an officer's position and/or ritualistic part might be somewhat unrealistic. Think about how best to integrate these new members into all three bodies so that they remain active and enthusiastic for years to come.

As we are now approaching the final months of this Grand Commandery year, I want to remind all of you to make sure to register for the Grand Convention next month which will be held in Lake Mary Florida. As in years past we expect lots of fun and fellowship, and we may even have the honor of hosting our Most Eminent Grand Master for our 125th year celebration. We our however, limiting the Sunday evening banquet due to social distancing requirements, so if you have not already paid for this event you might not be able to share in that aspect of the Convention. We will be conferring the past-Chair Degree for those Commanders currently holding that Office, along with others that are Past Commanders but missed the conferral of this honor because of the virtual convention last year. We will also be putting-on the "fun" Degree of The Ancient and Heroic Order of the Gordian Knot, for the first time in Florida. This Degree has a beautiful moral lesson and I think you will find the ritual very interesting. Please make sure you sign-up early for both events.

As I make my final few visitations during this month, I hope that I will be able to witness the continued Fellowship and Brotherhood that makes the Grand Commandery of Florida such an awesome force for good within the Masonic Fraternity. While my year as Grand Commander has gone by much faster than I would have anticipated, I can honestly say that it has been a year of meeting new friends and witnessing first-hand all the hard work that many of you do to keep this Fraternity moving forward. The pandemic of 2020 may have slowed Freemasonry down a little, but it can never diminish the spirit that we have inside all of us to live up to our Obligations as Master Masons and as Knights of the Temple of Solomon.

I wish all of you and your families a Very Happy Easter. Please stay safe and healthy and know that I appreciate each and every one of you as my friend, Brother, and Frater of the Temple.

Donec Totem Impleat Orbem,

Brett A. Gordon, KYCH
Right Eminent Grand Commander