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**California Supplement
 Grand Commander's Message
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Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it shall be given you; Seek, and ye shall find; Knock, and it shall be opened unto you"

Greetings Sir Knights and Ladies,

2021 it is!!It's here. We all know that at this time of the year, outside of Covid-19, preparations for the Grand Sessions are already in place. The York Rite Website has already been populated with all the necessary forms for Registration, Reservations etc. Unfortunately, Sir Knights and Companions, with the news of the surge in number of people tested positive of Covid -19, which is worst that when it first breakout, virtual technology will continue to be the means moving forward in managing our meeting, events and for reaching out to Sir Knights wheresoever dispersed.

The York Rite Grand Sessions scheduled in May is too close to call to become an in-person sessions, desired but may not happen. The preparation time is not enough even taking into consideration the Vaccine being rolled out now and all restrictions lifted. Plan B, which is the virtual version of the Grand Sessions is the best option to be considered and hopefully be decided upon and finalized soon. I hope that by the time you receive this message, the decision for the Grand Session to be virtual is finalized and planning has started. The Grand Commandery realizing the complexities of setting up a virtual session is on the lookout for Sir Knights who have gained expertise in setting and running a secured and hacker proof virtual meeting.

This is also the time of the year the newly installed Officers, assuming most of our local Commanderies have already been installed, are ready to roll out and implement the goals and plans for the year. The budget for the year must have also been voted on and approved.

Busy is the keyword for the newly installed officers who have passed the Officer's Qualifications, they are now ready to perform their duties to show a smooth opening and closing a virtual or even a regular in-person meeting. Virtually however, I would recommend the opening and closing to be done through memory and simulating the corresponding floor work for each station. This is one way to learn and virtually experienced the required movement even in a face-to-face opening and closing. Your Inspector or any of the senior members of your Commandery will always be available to help and assist and to answer any of your questions regarding floor work. I would appreciate the senior Sir Knights of a Commandery to be a big brother not only to the newly installed officers but also to the newly knighted Sir Knights to aid and assist in the performance of their duties and responsibilities.

February is the month of "Love", Feb 14th is the feast day of Saint Valentine; the celebration of love and affection. The word "love" appears hundreds of times in the Bible, 310 times in the King James Bible, 348 times in the New American Standard Bible, 551 times in the New International Version and 538 times in the New Revised Standard Version, clearly because "God is Love".

1John 4:7-12- "Beloved, Let us love one another: for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God"

Sir knights our ladies deserve the best on this special day, the day to renew and strengthened our love and affection and to thank them for supporting and allowing us to do what we do as Masons.

In Unity,
Cirilo Marquez
 Grand Commander

Happy Valentine's Day!!