



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

3902 David St.
Archdale NC 27263
mdanielus@yahoo.com



Editor: Larry Aydlett, KT – larry.aydlett@gmail.com

“How you get there is where you arrive...” -Phillip Booth

Greetings, Sir Knights!

It's February and we're moving into our last month of the year for the Grand Commandery. Where has the time flown? We have all missed being able to meet in-person and enjoy each other's company so much over the past year, and I for one am ready to re-engage with my Brother Sir Knights face-to-face.

That makes me think of the ones who have been ill, and those who have struggled with just the day-to-day challenge of getting by. Some need our help now. Right now. It may be just a kind word, simply reminding them they aren't alone. Both people involved in an act of kindness are blessed. Someone wiser than I said to me long ago, "Until you go outside of yourself, you will never really be fulfilled." He was talking about what we call charity. Not just giving money to a nameless cause, but an emptying out of what is truly inside us. Releasing compassion and empathy out from ourselves as it was intended to be. They are the by-products, the 'symptoms' of the person we are becoming. Giving genuinely of ourselves is what we are talking about here. That can be pretty difficult sometimes, especially when we have our own problems and distractions.

We also are often, quite naturally, impatient. We are impatient with our circumstances, our goals. We are eager for the end of something or the accomplishing of something on our lists. We want to skip all the in-between stuff and get to the goal. Now.

But that isn't how things work. The law of progress is made up of stages, milestones, and teaching moments that may take a very long

time. Sometimes this feels unstable or scary because our terminal may not be in sight.

But we will drive all through the night only seeing what our feeble headlights can illuminate just ahead. This is the nature of Faith.

Our personal and spiritual development is very much the same way. We search for a head full of knowledge, expecting to find that one magical nugget of insight that will suddenly bring enlightenment, as if it were something that could be learned or intellectualized. I'm afraid it is not so. It cannot be rushed or forced. We think of our journeys as having a start, travel, and a final destination. In a more general sense, I hope this isn't true. I hope it is one long ride. Everything we experience affects our neuropathways and retrains our brains. How we react to those experiences affects them even more. That is why Solomon wrote "Guard your heart (mind) for it determines your future paths." Personally, I see the window as the best part of the trip: side-roads, whistle-stops, seeing, experiencing, and embracing all the things between the start and the destination.

Philosopher Alan Watts used to say, "the path IS the goal!"

I believe our journey, especially as Knights Templar, is just such a journey. We live, grow, and interact with each other, recognizing our faults and seeing the divine in those we meet. We are all reflections of each other, just as we are also created in His image. We only develop as much as we engage with others. We encounter the Christ in others and slowly learn to yield ourselves to that elevated consciousness. It takes a lifetime.

And so I think it is with us. Live deliberately: don't rush; also, don't wait.

“Above all, trust in the slow work of God.” -Prayer of Teilhard de Chardin

In all Fraternal friendship and love,

Grand Commander