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Welcome to the year 2021!

Greetings Sir Knights,

I never thought I would be writing a second January supplement. So much has transpired over the last year, and our minds reel at the possibility of adjusting to another period of careful gatherings and precautions we never expected to become so familiar.

We have become very creative as to how we may enjoy each other's company, help those who need help and continue to share the Light. This speaks so eloquently to your true character and to your love for our Craft and those who make up our various Bodies.

At the core of all these changes, it is really about taking care of those we love, while taking care of ourselves. After all, we can't help others if we are not able. Years ago, in my late teens, I worked for a national hotel chain. I was travelling in Asheville on vacation with my family and decided to stay at one of our properties.

The General Manager met me at the door and announced that the hotel and food were provided with his compliments. He accommodated our every need and made us feel like VIPs. As he and I talked one night, I asked him why he was being so generous, after all, I was a lowly employee with no fancy titles or any real clout. I will never forget his response.

He simply said, "Son, we are in the business of taking care of people. If we can't take care of our own people, who do we think we can take care of." Simple truth.

Like him, we are in the business of taking care of people. We share the Light of the World with those in darkness. We give to those who do not have. We accept the challenge to be our best version of ourselves.

This is work. In fact, it is THE Work. Our forebears left us with a legacy of generosity, truth, initiative, caring and a drive to excel. Can we do otherwise?

Every time we do these things, we honor their gifts and make the world a little brighter. It's simple truth.

Don't forget, we still need Certified Instructors to help us keep our work strong and preserve it for another generation.

I also encourage you to put together a team to perform the Templar Funeral Rites. They are being revitalized. If you would like a copy, just reach out to me or our Instructor Inspector Jay Callaham.

There is truth in the words of Vern McLellan who said:

"What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year."

2021...a fresh start.

With all Fraternal fondness and respect,

-Michael Daniels, Grand Commander