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NORTH CAROLINA

Greetings Sir Knights,

Most of us think of Independence Day festivities when we think about the month of July—the cookouts, the fireworks, and the celebration of our nation declaring its independence. However, there is another event that is celebrated in July that, as Christian knights, I would like to draw your attention to. This is the liturgical feast of the Dispersion of the Apostles. While it might not be celebrated in all congregations, it is worth consideration.

After the ascension of Jesus Christ, the Apostles returned to Jerusalem to celebration Shavuot when the Holy Spirit descended upon them, which we now celebrate as Pentecost. The Apostles were in a challenging position at this point: their leader had been executed like a criminal, many of the followers had fled, and they faced opposition from the religious leaders. According to the Matthew 28:19, they were told “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” Even given this injunction, they could have very easily balked and returned to their homes and professions. They could have easily given up and said that going out and evangelizing could be very dangerous. Perhaps they could have stayed in Palestine and continued to keep doing what they were used to doing. But they did not.

They dispersed, traveling in different directions to preach the Word of God in Syria, in Cappadocia, in Egypt, in Parthia, and in Rome. All but one of them was martyred in the process. Nonetheless, they did manage to baptize many converts to Christianity, laying the foundations for a church that would survive and thrive for the next two thousand years, reaching nearly every corner of the globe.

Although Apostles all set out on a quest, each set forth in a different direction, following his own path and his own mission. An aspect of this is encapsulated in our ritual work when we are directed to set out on a pilgrimage. In like fashion, we are frequently charged in our other Masonic bodies to carry the message and ideals of Masonry outside the tiled recesses of our buildings and exemplify the morals and principles we cherish.

In the dispersion of the Apostles, we find a positive example of how a spiritual quest is closely tied to the idea of an inner transformation; I use the word “transformation” for how else does one describe what happens when our hearts are opened to God? We discover that this quest is as much an inward journey as it is one that carries us through the outside world. The Dispersion of the Apostles shows us that if you want to change the world and make it a better place, you must first begin by transforming yourself.



DISTRICT MEETINGS- JULY/AUGUST 2021

Thursday, July 21	District 9	Asheville
Monday, July 12	District 2	Wilmington
Monday, July 19	District 1	Greenville
Wednesday, August 4	District 6	Greensboro

CASTLE McCULLOUGH

This year the Greensboro bodies will be hosting a conferral of the Order of the Temple at Castle McCullough in Jamestown, NC on Wednesday, October 7. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring new candidates into the Commandery. The proceeds will go to the Holy Land Pilgrimage fund. Further details will be forthcoming soon. Please feel free to reach out to myself or Larry Aydlett (NC Supplement editor) for more information.

Courteously,
Ludwik J. Wodka
Grand Commander