

Grand Commandery of New York

August News



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Grand Commander

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FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY

Christian Greetings Sir Knights,

As we now enter, as my father would say, the “dog days of summer”, you can ease through August studying that Ritual you have chosen to learn at a relaxed pace. Don’t wait until you need to know it to embrace it.

The Chapter, Council and Commandery dedication/rededication ceremonies performed July 23 in Fairport, NY were stimulating and informative. While I have had many opportunities to see and be involved in the Templar Ceremony and have witnessed the Chapter Dedication several times, the Council Ceremony was only the second viewing for me. It was just as impressive as I had remembered it.

To experience all three in one day truly was inspiring. The re-enforcement of your **Faith**, desire to improve yourself, conviction of your oaths and vows together with allegorical messages imparted in these ceremonies truly can incite one to press onward in the many tenants that we subscribe too. It can also stimulate us to exertion on behalf of **Charity** and renew our **Hope** that what we do will benefit all mankind. You should make every effort to attend these events and glean what you can for further Light and strength.

With the DeMolay Annual Session this month, this is a perfect time to remind ourselves of the importance of supporting our youth groups. I have always been impressed with the individual and professional growth you see as these young men and women progress through the years and prepare themselves to become the leaders of tomorrow. Let us all charge ourselves with a commitment of more personal time to support these groups and be a part of their success.

At the end of every Masonic year, this is the one area that I always reflect on as being well short of my intentions and desires. I can’t continue to try the same strategies and expect different results. I must find a partner (two Knights on one horse) that we may support and drag each other along.

Courteously,
SK Dennis S. Davis, R.E.G.C.

Upcoming Events

DeMolay Annual Session, August 18-21, Woodgate, NY
Grand Council Annual assembly, August 19-20, Albany, NY
Northeast Conference, September 9-10, Albany, NY
Grand Commandery NY, September 16-18, Utica, NY

Grand Prelate's Corner

I would like to share with you a devotion that I read, titled "Focusing on Eternity," by Chris Hendrix. Chris stated: "We recently cleaned out our garage. I threw a lot of things away that I had held onto for years. I kept thinking, at some point, I valued these things enough to spend money on them. Then later, I valued them enough to store them." The next week, his mother in law did the same thing. He helped her throw away a couple of truck loads. On the road, she said, "It's better for me to do this now. I don't want my kids having to go through all this one day when I die."

We spend a lifetime working so we can buy things, most of which devalue over time. Then what? Someone has to go through them and determine whether to keep them, donate them or throw them away. The question that comes to mind is this: "Did what mattered to us in this lifetime matter for eternity?" The psalmist who wrote Psalm 39 started thinking about the end of their life. In verse 6, they wrote, "We are merely moving shadows and all our busy rushing ends in nothing. We heap up wealth, not knowing who will spend it". They started wondering if what they had been pursuing had been worth it.

If you back up a couple of verses, they prayed, "Lord, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered—how fleeting my life is." What a great prayer.

We forget that this life isn't all there is. We spend so much time in this life preparing for it, trying to live well and live as comfortably as possible that we forget to think about eternity. It's like the couple getting married spending all their time preparing for a wedding when they should be preparing for a marriage. What are you preparing for in this life? Are you keeping eternity in focus? I admit that it's hard to do. The pressures of this life are so real and present that I spend a lot of time thinking about them. It was the daily pressures that got this psalmist to turn their attention to eternity though.

Are we allowing the pressures of the temporary things to take our mind off of the eternal? Are we spending too much time and money on things that others will throw away or donate? Chris says he has a small poem up that said, "Only one life, 'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last." It was his daily reminder to pursue the eternal things and to not get so caught up in the affairs of this life that he failed to prepare for the next.

Where is your focus today? What's distracting you from looking at eternity?