



Grand Commandery of Michigan NEWS February 2022

"Together, for a Better Tomorrow"

Gary L. Paquet, Right Eminent Grand Commander

To the Officers, Sir Knights and Ladies of this jurisdiction of Michigan:

February, the month we celebrate the holiday Valentine's Day. It's a time to pause and provide us a moment to give back to that individual in our life that makes each day special. That wonderful individual who supports us through thick and thin, in good times and in bad, and makes our heart flutter just a bit every time we look at their face, gaze into their eyes, or hold their hand. Sir Knights, our ladies do so much for us. It's easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Please take a moment to make this Valentine's Day extra special for the one you love and hold dear. To all the ladies of this great commandery, thank you for all you do!

A moment of reflection or observation if you will. In this time of strife in our world with the ongoing uncertainty of Covid-19, the political polarization and broken discourse, the continued sluggishness of the supply chain, our ever-changing weather, or the ongoing unrest over seas, I'm reminded of not just the focus of Valentine's Day, which is self-evident, but the underlying tenet of our Christian faith, love thy neighbor.

A couple years back, then Grand Prelate, William LeVeque, wrote the following: "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another as I have loved you; that ye also love one another. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." If we would keep the commandment to love one another, we must treat each other with compassion and respect, showing our love in day-to-day interactions. Love offers a kind word, a patient response, a selfless act, an understanding ear, a forgiving heart. In all our associations, these and other such acts help make evident the love in our hearts. Love is the noblest attribute of the human soul. Love is the remedy for ailing families, ill communities, and sick nations. Love is a smile, a wave, a kind comment, and a compliment. Love is sacrifice, service, and selflessness."



February Birthdays of Grand Officers and Ladies: The happiest of birthdays to each of you!

5-S.K. Michael E. Hicks

8-S.K. Erwin W. O'Dell

24-S.K. James C. Costello

I cannot help but think of the sentiments of these words or "commandment" and when I allow myself the opportunity to ponder the possibilities, draw strength from them. Yes, there are many issues impacting us. Some we have control over and others not. Some we let ourselves be bothered by and then perpetuate through social media. I cannot help but ask myself, why? For what purpose? Have we gotten so mired down in the day-to-day influences to no longer see the bigger picture? Are we going to allow these influences to take us down or build us up?

I personally look at this as another opportunity to live our lives through our ritual learned in blue lodge, commandery, and quite frankly, all our organizations. Let's redouble our efforts in this month of February and beyond to model our Christian values. Give a kind word of support to a waiter or waitress who's working hard to make ends meet. Share an uplifting or positive story on Facebook, Twitter, or Snapchat. Lend an ear to a family member, friend, brother, or sister who may be struggling with an illness, loneliness, or loss of a family member. Give of your time, talent and purse to the community and our Masonic family at large. When you do, you will quell the negative and bring to life the ideals we've learned through our ritual and make the "new commandment" a reality. Each of us has the power of choice to love, what choice will you make?

Until our paths cross again, safe travels to wherever the journey take you.

Gary L. Paquet, Grand Commander

49th Annual Tri-State Festival

Any commandery who has candidates in waiting, here's your chance. On Saturday, March 5, 2022, Jackson Commandery No. 9 will be hosting an All Order Day at the Jackson Temple 355 Napoleon Road, Michigan Center, MI 49254. Come and celebrate this special day with Sir Knights from Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan. Details can be found at kt-mi-org.



February brings us closer to spring and "newness of earth". February 2nd is the halfway point between the start of winter and the start of spring (Actually this year, it hits on February 03rd). Many of us look forward to this date and wait for the ground hog to see his shadow so we will know how long winter will be. Indeed, many of us get restless as winter drags on.

Psalm 90 is attributed to Moses - "A Prayer of Moses" and is a reflection on the timelessness of our God, "From Everlasting to Everlasting." It is equally a reflection on our own mortality.

*"The years of our life are seventy,
or even by reason eighty;
Yet their span is but toil and trouble;
They are soon gone and we fly away.
And so we have this simple but dramatic Prayer:
So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.
Return, O Lord! How long?
Have pity on your servants!
Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that wise may rejoice and be glad all our days.
And the Psalm ends with this conclusion:
Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands."*

*So let us glory in the work that God places under our hand and rejoice in his goodness to us.
In his Service;*

Sir Knight David Dossette, PC, KYGCH
Eminent Grand Prelate