



Digital Missouri Message

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Happy Valentine's Day!

GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights,

I pray that you are doing well in spite of the current surge in COVID-19 infections due to the Omicron variant. I hope everyone is being careful and watching their health because winter presents many hazards both medical and physical.

For this issue, I have asked my good friend and Aide-De-Camp as well as our Grand Organist, Sir Knight Steven C. Monrotus, who is also a Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Missouri, to provide us with a little article. I hope you enjoy it.

Walking with Christ in a Return to Normalcy!

Sir Knight Harry L. Tripp, Jr., Grand Commander

HONOR AND KNIGHTLY CHIVALRY

In receiving the Order of the Temple, the newly made Sir Knight becomes aware, among other things, that what remains today of the 12th century Templars of old is not the martial aspect once associated with these medieval Christian Knights. That has long since passed away leaving behind a refined sense of the same moral chivalry which they themselves share. Being chivalrous is thus not only a typical characteristic of Masonic Knights Templar of long standing but is taught to and expected of every newly made Sir Knight as a matter of course. The word "chivalrous," as commonly understood, means possessing a knightly character whose chief distinguishing attribute is honor – followed by the earmarks of generosity, courtesy, and high-minded consideration as well as respect for the needy and downtrodden, in general, and a moral obligation to protect and defend innocent women, children, orphans, and the Christian faith in particular. Honor thus has very much to do with chivalry.

Honor is "joined at the hip" to the faith of the Christian Knight in that his faith determines WHO he chooses to honor. It follows then that, as a man exercises his faith, his future is determined by WHO he has chosen to honor. As Christian Knights we can create with honor what we cannot create with knowledge and intelligence. Honor is the seed for access and it will outlast a lifetime. Honor can make someone literally see that all blessings from God come through a chain of authority.

How a creature adapts to prevailing conditions reveals its "code of honor," and this seems to operate as universally in the natural world as the law of gravity. For example, a full grown Saint Bernard dog learns to "honor" people by being trained to locate stranded mountaineers in the Swiss Alps if and when they turn up missing and by bringing them a bit of brandy in a small keg attached to its dog collar. In so doing, a trained animal like this is no longer just a dog – it has adapted to becoming a

member of a rescue team and, as it turns out, a critically important member, at that. Adaptation is the proof of "honor."

How each of us have adapted to the prevailing conditions and needs of our home Commandery, the Grand Commandery, the Grand Encampment, our other organizations, and the people around us over time reveals something about our code of honor. Honor protects us, corrects us, encourages us to yield, and encourages us to listen. When a man experiences success in his life it will be because of a PERSON he chose to honor. In those moments when he may suffer failure in his life it will be because of a PERSON he chose to dishonor. One need only glance at the condition of society today to know that dishonor is the seed for tragedy. One does not need to have worked for the Department of Corrections to know that the prisons are full of men and women who were never trained about WHO to honor.

As we begin this new year of grace let us remember that, as we adapt to the new and challenging conditions which are certain to come our way throughout the year as chivalrous Sir Knights who are living our Christian faith, we will be revealing our own personal code of honor and bringing credit to that valiant and magnanimous Order we all know and love so well.

Sir Knight Richard L. Mansfield, PGC

GOD'S BOUNDLESS LOVE

God's love knows no bounds. Jesus revealed how God's love extends to everyone. However, there are skeptics among God's people that believe that God's love is only intended for those who love God. Jesus suggested in Matthew 5 that we should love everyone, not just those who love us. By the same token, God loves everyone, not just those who love Him.

A BRIEF FEBRUARY MESSAGE

Smile at your wife. Smile at your husband. Smile at your children. Smile at each other – it doesn't matter who it is – just share a smile. And that simple act will help you to grow in greater love for each other.

THE MOON OF FEBRUARY

February is the month of the Snow Moon. The Snow Moon is the name given to the full moon that occurs during February. In 2022, it will occur on February 16th in the United States. The full Moon names can be found in "The Old Farmer's Almanac" and originally came from many different sources. Traditionally, each full Moon name is applied to the entire month in which it occurs.