



Digital Missouri Message

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Happy New Year!

GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights,

I am thankful for my God up above and that he really does lead us in straight paths when we let him. When we try to take on obstacles without His assistance from above we seem to fail. I give thanks in this New Year to my wife, family, and friends. I also give thanks to my Grand Officers, my Grand Recorders, and my assistants both paid and un-paid. Without all of these people I would not have a better quality of life. Without all of their help I could not perform the duties of Grand Commander as effectively and as efficiently.

I hope everyone had a healthy and safe Holiday. We are now in a New Year and the Annual Conclave of the Grand Commandery is only a short six months away. On one hand it seems like a long time before the event and on the other it seems like it will be upon us tomorrow.

We are very excited about the Bicentennial Conferrals of Mark Master and Past Master Degrees program initiated by the Grand Chapter of Missouri in cooperation with the Grand Lodge of Missouri. It appears that there is a lot of interest in the program by the Missouri Master Masons around the State. I wish the Grand Chapter success. I am sure that their success will ultimately result in an increase of petitions for our Missouri Commanderies.

During December, I issued General Order No. 3. That General Order is now effective and requires all Missouri Commanderies to return to normal, pre-pandemic operations. However, COVID-19 is not behind us. We are still battling the Delta variant and now we are starting to deal with the new Omicron variant. Every Missouri Sir Knight must honestly assess his individual risk factors and make an informed decision about his participation in Commandery events. Under no circumstance shall a Sir Knight be pressured to participate in any Commandery activity. The safety and health of the Sir Knight and the family members with which he lives is first and foremost. By the same token, it is the responsibility of each Missouri Commandery to determine if the local COVID-19 situation warrants not holding an in person meeting. General Order No. 3 provides two general dispensations for Missouri Commanderies that need to hold virtual meetings instead of in person meetings.

Walking with Christ in a Return to Normalcy!

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

PRACTICE CHIVALRY EVERY DAY

Does the idea of Chivalry seem outdated and irrelevant in our lives today? I say NO! However, I believe that many of us have forgotten the chivalric ideals. We should live as those Knights who came before us, and more importantly, as Godly men, to recover and to reestablish the virtues and behaviors essential to creating a quality life through Chivalry. The chivalric virtues that all men should seek and develop are:

Justice — A Knight seeks the path of RIGHT not restrained by bias or selfish interest.

Prowess — A Knight seeks excellence in all endeavors to be used in the service of Justice, not for personal gain.

Loyalty — A Knight is known for commitment to the ideals he chooses to live by.

Courage — A Knight is prepared to make personal sacrifices for his beliefs, as well as for the people he loves and the country he serves.

Defense — A Knight seeks to defend his Lady, family, nation, and all those he deems worthy of his Loyalty.

Faith — A Knight is steadfast and faithful in his beliefs.

Humility — A Knight values the contributions of others first.

Generosity — A Knight contributes as far as necessity requires and his ability will permit.

Nobility — A Knight seeks stature of character by holding to the virtues of Chivalry and the duties of Knighthood.

Franchise — A Knight seeks to emulate all that is right, because it IS RIGHT!

I am proposing a resolution which all Sir Knights should consider making for the New Year. I recommend that we all practice Chivalry every day and become more chivalrous men toward our Ladies, toward our fellow Fraters, and toward all of the people of the world.

Sir Knight Richard L. Mansfield, PGC

A BLESSING FOR THE NEW YEAR

May you be blessed with new insights and inspiration. May you be graced with quiet moments of simplicity and reflection. May you travel to new places inside yourself. May you be supported by your loved ones when you need them. May you be a source of strength to those around you. May you receive the embraces of your parents, your children, and long lost friends. May you say good-bye to habits and thoughts that have become a burden for you. May you forgive those who have hurt you and may you have the courage to make amends when needed. May you build the world that you have always wanted for yourself and others. May you hear the joy and the sorrow of this great universe in which we live. And may you – and all of us – be blessed with peace.