



## Digital Missouri Message

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## Spring is Just Around the Corner!

### GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights,

As I pen this message, I am looking at the weather that this third week in February has brought us. I hope that by the time that you read this edition of the Digital Missouri Message we will be coming out of the winter of 2022.

The outlook for the conclusion of the pandemic is looking favorable. We may not be out of the woods yet, but we hope and pray that it will be over sooner than later. I also hope that all of our Missouri Commanderies are starting to get active again and preparing for the 2022 Annual Conclave and Drill Competition.

As you are probably aware, the Grand Encampment is holding a Special Conclave this month for the discussion and decision of a number of issues relating to the actions of the current Grand Master. I have been kept informed concerning the issues and decided that the Grand Commandery of Missouri would not participate in the process to request the Special Conclave. However, several members of the Grand Commandery of Missouri have planned to attend the Special Conclave and participate in the deliberations. Please pray that our leaders will act honorably but decisively to resolve the issues at hand.

### Walking with Christ in a Return to Normalcy!

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

### A MATTER OF TIME

Events occurring in my personal life as well as events that have recently occurred in our Fraternity have caused me to contemplate the time we have to enjoy life. Late last year Sir Knight Jerry Ward, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander (1990 - 1991), passed away and last month Sir Knight Jim Snively, Right Eminent Past Grand Commander (2005 - 2006), passed away. Both of these men were my fellow Brethren, my fellow Companions, and my fellow Sir Knights. They were roll models for me because they exemplified Leadership. They were supporters of me as I was Grand Commander. They were friends to me and I loved them both.

Death is a topic not considered often by the living. The young may die. The older we become, however, the more certain death becomes to each of us. We cannot avoid the ultimate event that will terminate our existence in the world of the living. We will all eventually travel to that foreign land and never return. And none of us knows how soon we will be taken or how much time we have to enjoy this world.

We should, therefore, work hard to enjoy the company of our loved ones. We should endeavor to contribute to the good of our Fraternity while our strength allows us to participate. We should keep our affairs in order because we know not when the grim reaper will call upon us. It is just a matter of time.

Sir Knight Russell S. Hanson, PGC and Editor

## **A HEALING PRAYER**

Dear Lord of Mercy and Father of Comfort,

We turn to you for help in times of need. We ask that you be with our Brethren Knights struggling with injury or illness. In the name of Jesus, drive out all infirmity and sickness from their bodies. Please send your healing Word to them. Lord, we ask that your healing touch turn their weakness into strength, their suffering into compassion, their sorrow into joy, and their pain into comfort.

## **SPRING – A RENEWAL OF LIFE**

Spring awakens in us the sense of life. Nature is a symbol of the spiritual renewal of the Christian life. The goal of Christians should be the renewal of the heart, the conscience, and the will.

Spring awakens the sense of a beautiful life. What a banquet for the eye. What fragrance we sense. It is as if an angel had spread a bouquet of celestial flowers around us. The serene and tender loveliness of spiritual affections and actions is nobler than all the graces of outward beauty.

Spring is the season of growth. A parable of the spiritual life. When growth ceases, then decay begins. Material growth is spontaneous. Spiritual growth is the result of self-effort. We grow by the power of our will and purpose.

In Spring, the gardens and the fields prophesy a harvest of fruit and grain. The present life is only a prophecy of our immortal life. Our knowledge, our desires, and our powers of spiritual action; are all in their infancy. The summer glory of our being is to be reached elsewhere. The present experience of the Christian is only a prophecy of future experiences. As the bud and blossom predict the fruit and as the first ear of corn predicts the whole harvest, Spring is full of promise.

## **MARCH EQUINOX**

The March equinox occurs when the northward heading Sun appears to cross the celestial equator. The March equinox is the vernal equinox in the Northern Hemisphere and the autumnal equinox in the Southern Hemisphere. While there is nothing to see, the vernal equinox will occur on Sunday, March 20th at 10:33 am in Missouri.