



MARYLAND NEWS
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Season's greetings from the Grand Commander,

By now, we are all coming down from the joy felt with our families from Thanksgiving and gearing up for the Christmas holiday season. Oh what Joy! we are given by the birth of the Christ child, Hallelujah! Remember and relive the joy this season with your friends and relations, but as Christian leaders try to share some of that joy with the rest of the world. Share it with other Sir Knights at the Observances sponsored state wide by all the Commanderies, be charitable amongst your fellow church parishioners, and keep it within yourself, so the light you reflect upon the world, champions our hearts in His Glory! There is no better time than now to be a better Man, Mason, and Knight!

And this season, we are returning from Sessions in Ocean City and preparing to embark on the next year's labors to continually improve the Maryland York Rite, and specifically, the Commanderies. You won't see much action yet from the Grand Officers and committees, but they are working hard. We are taking this next several weeks to learn our roles as officers and committees, and preparing to come out swinging. Because of the Holiday, and the Blue Lodge installations (at which we have been given dispensation to present the colors - more on that separately), we won't hit the ground until mid January after those installations. But in those first few weeks, and as we move into February, you will start seeing the fruits of those labors take root. And by my next address, I hope you will see some differences.

We plan a lot of change in the next year, not for change's sake, but merely to embrace the structures and programs already in place that are not being implemented, in hopes to revitalize some great practices. And building on the improvements laid out by my predecessors, PGC's Austin and Andrukitis, we will pass the torch to our teams.

This is part of a plan I wrote when I was installed as Grand Captain General. While serving thus, I spent a lot of time traveling, and learning from great mentors, consisting of many Grand Encampment officers, several Grand Commanders from across the country, and some inspirational leaders which crossed my path in providential ways. One of which was Sir Knight Dennis Haas, PGC of Virginia. He shared his plan with me and gave me tips on how to better my own plans for my term. I bring this up to thank him and the Grand Officers of Virginia for their continual support of our Grand Commandery, and also in the spirit of sincere motivation and cooperation. If my focus were not already on cooperation and communication, it would be after seeing the benefits of it in Virginia.

This is relevant because I have to give mention to the article in the latest KT magazine (Words to Live By - Dave Dryer, pages 39-41). I always recommend reading the magazine, but especially this recent edition, which is full of wisdom. And it mimics the same sentiment and outlines a similar plan that I have, that Virginia had, and several others are developing. Many of us have been given that seed of wisdom from our Father, and it now seems to be coming together into a tangible initiative which I believe will carry us forward for the next decade, if we prove to be able stewards of those tenets.

So get out there, and see what your and other nearby Commanderies are doing. Resolve to be a champion for our own cause, and be part of the change that will serve to turn our downward spiral into a new wave of greatness and growth to build on. Only when each of us is so emboldened, will we be able to strive to be worthy of His Love.

Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed nomini tuo da gloriam!