



Digital Missouri Message

Russell S. Hanson, PGC, Editor
107 S. Williams St., Fayette, MO 65248-1017
573-864-4434 (cell) hansonr@missouri.edu



It is a Great Time to be Thankful!

GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights,

Allow me to share this "Thank You Note" with you.

Dear Lord,

I realize that I have not taken the time to thank you recently. Thank you for the potholes that let me know I have a car with shock absorbers. Thank you for long lines at the TSA that reassure I am safe when I fly. Thank you for the double lanes at fast food restaurants so that the three cars in the other lane that pass me provide me with more time to look at the menu. Thank you for the gravel trucks on the highway for reminding me I have good glass coverage.

My little thank you note illustrates some of the common challenges that you may face in your day to day life. I consider these first world problems, or blessings, depending on your perspective. Not all blessings take place at this high level, however. Sometimes blessings can pull you out of the big picture and down to the granular perspective of life and death. The arthritis pain in your hands that remind you that you still have hands. The thick glasses that remind you that you can still see. The pain that you experience in the dentist's chair that reminds you that you still have the ability to chew solid food. A cough that indicates you can still draw a breath.

Some of you know Sir Knight Stuart English. He once told me that he carries a small blue rock in his pocket and that each time he reaches in and feels it, he gives thanks for some aspect of his life. On days that he is unable to identify something to be thankful for, he gives thanks for having fingers to be able to touch the rock. That exemplifies the message that I am trying to convey. When we struggle with the challenges of life – which are blessings in disguise, it is important to remember all of the little blessings that we have first.

Matthew 22:37 (NIV) extols us to, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." So the next time someone drives around cars stopped for an accident just to cut in at the end, try to remember how blessed you are to be there. You could be in the Ambulance.

Dei Gratia - By the Grace of God!

Sir Knight Michael C. Rohman, Grand Commander

BEING THANKFUL

How often do we actually stop and give thanks to God for the little things in our life? Do we ever thank God for our health, our family, the roof over our head, our transportation, or our employment? The Edwin Louis Cole adage goes, "Attitude determines the altitude of life." We could also say that thankfulness determines our soul's altitude in eternity.

God can help us to be thankful for the little things that we can so easily take for granted. Little things like the value of a loaf of bread, a gallon of fuel, or a cup of sugar. We are so used to going to a grocery store for food or a filling station for fuel, but for some people this constitutes a luxury. To put it another way, many people would feel so blessed to be able to do just once what we take for granted every day. We should thank God for his amazing grace each and every day. We should help others when ever we can.

We should also give thanks to Jesus for our salvation. When do we stop and seriously consider the price Jesus paid for the salvation of our souls? When are we truly thankful that He died in our place? However, instead of being thankful, we tend to complain about the obstacles in our lives. We want self-parenting children, marriage without work, and cappuccinos without waiting. We want a life free of obstacles. What we don't realize is that God works through obstacles in order to mature our spirits and make us strong in our faith in the Lord. Jesus overcame His obstacles and for that we should be so very thankful. And, by the same token, we should work through the obstacle in our lives and be thankful to God for his blessings that enable us to overcome our daily challenges.

God is not surprised by our obstacles for He influences everything in our lives to work for our benefit according to His plan and purpose for each of us. He has our entire life planned and this should cause thanksgiving toward God who has us in the palm of His hand.

VALENTINE'S DAY

On Valentine's Day take the time to show your appreciation for your Lady, Daughter, Mother, Grandmother, etc. – the loves of your life. Our Ladies help us and support us so much in all of our endeavors. To paraphrase an old military saying, "Love'em if you've got'em."

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.

ABOUT FEBRUARY

January and February were the last two months to be added to the Roman calendar (c. 713 BC). Originally, winter was considered a month-less period.