



**GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHTS TEMPLAR
of Massachusetts & Rhode Island**

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Happy New Year Sir Knights,

The calendar has turned yet again and 2022 begins. What will it hold for us, what great things we will accomplish together, what gains we will achieve, what challenges will we overcome, and what losses will we all experience. The surge of the Corona virus is a setback, but we will come together and overcome it as we have done so far. The New Year is always a time of starting over, of resolutions, and new plans. I am sure we will all have plenty of those for 2022. Inspection season and Easter are nearby, and Orders are progressing in many Commanderies. I am sure we will all be working hard to get back to our usual excellence and preparing for the new inspection format. I want to take a minute to reflect back and remember those that are no longer with us, those who have gone to their eternal rest in the hope of rising again in Glory with Jesus Christ. I have always like to think our dearly departed have gone ahead to help our Lord prepare a place for us when we are reunited. Please keep them and their families in your New Year's prayers and throughout the year.

Yours in Christ,

Sir Knight Peter A. Mooradian
IN HOC SIGNO VINCES

A MESSAGE from the GRAND PRELATE

A New Year and a new you right? Each year we all at least think about making resolutions to be better, do better, improve ourselves. And despite our good intentions we usually last only a short period of time. Why? Human nature you say, or too many other demands taking priority, lack of results, waning interest, lack of support. The reasons go on and on. My Grandmother would have said "The road to Hell is paved with good intentions" I've no idea who she was quoting but I heard it often enough I still remember her saying it. So are we wrong to try? No I think not, are we failing too often due to bringing only good intentions to the table? Perhaps. What real change takes is real commitment. It also takes hard work and perseverance. So what change or resolution am I thinking about here you might ask?

Well what change might we need or want? I'm worried that our intentions and core values, our purpose and our execution have fallen prey to good intentions. They have been replaced or overwhelmed by focus on diluting the message so we don't offend. Of failing to fulfill our vows of "Feed the hungry, cloth the naked and bind up the wounds of the afflicted". Are we truly Soldiers of Christ? If so, shouldn't we be proud to say so? Shouldn't our resolution be to act as Christians? Accepting all who cross the threshold of our asylum in Christian love? Our mission is clear, whether we take that vow literally or figuratively or hopefully both. Remember the words the hermit related to you on your years of pilgrimage. It requires we not only feed the spirit with Christian love and affection for our brothers and our neighbors but we practice charitable acts which help feed those in need of physical nourishment. We are to cloth each other in the Word as St. Paul explains in Ephesians 6:10-18 the spiritual armor is necessary for us to battle with spiritual weakness but the world also requires practical clothing for those in need.

We are to bind up the wounds of the afflicted. Both physically and in spirit.

All of these should be our collective resolution. None of these require major changes, just small steps. How, you ask?

Let's take them one at a time. Feed the hungry. Ever talk to someone who needed spiritual or even just practical guidance? Provide it in a Christian manner with love and not ego. Volunteer at a food bank or soup kitchen. Donate time or money or both.

Cloth the naked, Certainly donating clothing and other items to charitable groups is worthwhile and easy to understand in the context of cloth the naked. But how to cloth someone in the spirit? Pray for them, pray with them. Act in brotherly love towards them. This leads to the third part, bind up the wounds of the afflicted. Now obviously most of us are not Doctors or nurses so the physical act of binding physical wounds is probably best left to professionals. But the spiritual and psychological wounds are well within our ability to bind up (bind up - not fix). Listen to the concerns of a brother, treat him with compassion, sympathize with his problems and help provide solutions if possible. These are all things we each can do, these can be New Year resolutions we can and should all strive to keep. And when we do, we not only have accomplished a personal triumph and improved ourselves, we also have fulfilled our vow as a Christian Knight.

May God bless you all in this New Year

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