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February is Upon Us!

Greetings Sir Knights!

We are now in the second month of 2021, and I hope that it is starting on a brighter note than those with which we ended 2020. Spring is just around the corner. Traditionally, the spring season has been deemed a time and symbol of renewal. The flowers and trees begin to bud out, bloom and grow; animals return from hibernation and begin the cycle of producing new generations. The snow melts, and the greenery returns.

As we turn to the spring season, it is fitting that we turn to renewal of life around us. My hope is that by the time you are reading this, the Covid19 vaccine, the protective measures we have undertaken as a society, and the attention to health and safety by everyone, have yielded a turning point and the worst of the pandemic is behind us and we are looking at a brighter tomorrow. Regardless of your individual feelings or beliefs about the propriety or usefulness of such measures, I know that one and all we look forward to a return to general good health, prosperity, and the chance to return to fraternity and good times. It is high past time that we move beyond fighting about our differences and our disagreements and instead work to embrace our similarities and work to build each other up. Only then can we truly recover from the ravages of 2020.

As of this writing, plans are underway for our annual grand conclave to be held in Lewiston, Idaho in April. The appendant and

chair orders will be held on Thursday, April 18. The annual meetings for the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, and the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar will be held on Friday and Saturday. The annual awards banquet will be held on Saturday, April 20. We will be celebrating the awards recipients for both 2020 and 2021 since we were not able to do so last year.

By the time you are reading this, full details should be available on our website at www.idyorkrite.org. Please go register and reserve your hotel rooms now. I know our companions and sir knights from the Lewiston York Rite are planning a wonderful time for each of us.

I know that with all that 2020 brought us that some may be concerned about whether the annual meeting will occur as planned. Rest assured that the grand officers are watching and observing as conditions unfold. If plans need to be adjusted, they will be, and due and timely notice will be given. However, it is simply not possible to wait until the last moment and plan a conference of quality for our membership. Thus, we must march forward with plans for April, keeping an eye on the changing landscape. I look forward to seeing you there!

In the meantime, take care of yourself, your family, and those around you. Be kind, be courteous, and let the love of Christ be your guiding principle and your principal gift to the world. Lead the world by your example of following Christ and caring for your fellow humans. With the love and work of us all, we will build a better world for all.

God bless you all!

Jeremy C. Vaughn Grand Commander