

Companions and Sir Knights,

I hope the spring time finds you and your family in good health and spirits as we are moving on towards the summer months. We are well into the year now so far as York Rite is concerned. The Grand Chapter and Grand Conclave are both past now. Sir Knight, James Bolinger has been elected and installed as the Grand Commander of Knights Templar for the State of Indiana. I am looking forward to us working with the new Grand Commander throughout the remainder of 2015. Our new Battalion Commander for the remainder of the year has been named by the new Grand Commander and he is no stranger to members of Fort Wayne Commandery, his name is Ed Fodrea who is a Past Eminent Commander of Fort Wayne #4 K.T.

In past articles, I talked some about membership, please bear in mind that membership is an ongoing thing and it is something each and every member of York Rite should work on regularly. I sent out 50 letters early this year in an effort to bolster membership in Fort Wayne York Rite. Did I get an immediate return in the number of replies I expected? The answer to that is no but some is better than none. However, I look at it this way: I have planted seeds and sometimes it takes time and nurturing for seeds to grow and become productive plants. I chose to send those letters out to many of my friends and Masonic acquaintances. As many of you know who have worked in agriculture or have done gardening, it takes fertile soil to make the seeds germinate and grow. Where did I get the greatest return on my mailing? You probably have already figured that out, it was right in the Masonic Lodge. Fellow Master Masons who are actively involved in Masonry in their symbolic Lodges are those who we are actively looking for to become members of York Rite. Now, have I forgotten about those who I sent letter to who did not respond? No, because like any seed it can lay dormant for a long time before it germinates. I have had some of the people I sent letters to comment on the invitation when I have seen them in person. To me that means the seed was not wasted, I just need to provide some nurturing to make it grow and perhaps next time, sew the seed in a more prolific soil.

One thing I did learn from my efforts in mailing out those letters, there are many Masonic brothers who have no idea what York Rite is all about. I tried to explain

it in the letter I sent to those people and I have had several tell me, I never knew it existed. Consequently, if nothing else, my efforts provided some Masonic education to those brother.

We had a good participation at the Ascension Day Service on May 14<sup>th</sup> at Saint Alban's Episcopal Church in Fort Wayne. I would like to personally thank all of the Sir Knights who attended to represent Fort Wayne Commandery.

Our June York Rite stated meeting will be on Wednesday, June 17, 2015. We will be opening on the Commandery. I would like to have all officers who have a uniform to wear that to the June meeting. We will be eating at 6:30 PM as usual with the Commandery opening at 7:30.

I know many people read the various articles in the Square and Compass even though they may not be a member of that particular Lodge. I know I do just to see what is going on in the Masonic realm in northern Indiana. If you have an interest in York Rite and would like to know more about it, feel free to contact me via email at [w9wn\\_01@yahoo.com](mailto:w9wn_01@yahoo.com) or call or send a text to 260 414-0567.

John Coleman, Eminent Commander, Fort Wayne #4 K.T.