



Digital Missouri Supplement

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Thank You for Everything

GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings Sir Knights,

I am thankful for God and being free to worship Him. I am thankful for my life with my family. I am thankful for this long Christian life. I am thankful for becoming a Marine. I am thankful for becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse and a Registered Nurse. I am thankful for the skills that I acquired and being able to help all types of people. I am thankful for being guided to meet the good men who helped me become a Mason and trying to do good works for others. I thank God for all of these good things and many others.

I pray that you will enjoy the Thanksgiving Holiday with family and friends. Enjoy your time together because it is so very precious. Enjoy sharing a holiday meal, but try not to eat too much turkey.

This month we have a Thanksgiving Message from SK Michael C. Rohman, Chairman of the Hospitaler Committee. I hope that you enjoy it.

Walking with Christ in a Return to Normalcy!

Sir Knight Harry L. Tripp, Jr., Grand Commander

HOSPITALER COMMITTEE THANKSGIVING MESSAGE

Being Thankful in 2021

Thus far 2021 certainly has presented some unique challenges to both the United States as well as the world, in general. As a result, I retreated to one of my favorite authors for his feelings about Thanksgiving. Be forewarned that this is not the typical Thanksgiving message that you may find on a greeting card. It's more like the advice you might hear from a parent. Not always cheery, but usually wise. The following Thanksgiving Message appeared on the front page of The Washington Times on November 27, 1905.

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Monday Evening, November 27, 1905 (Front Page)

Less Cause for Thanks Than Man Has His God

By Mark Twain

"A few days ago one of the interviewers offered to let me do a Thanksgiving sentiment. I was not able to take advantage of the opportunity for I had already declined two chances and it would not be

fair to be inconsistent and unreliable unless I could do good by it or there was graft in it somewhere, for the family."

"Besides there is another aspect to this matter. Every year every person in America concentrates all his thought upon one thing, the cataloguing of his reasons for being thankful to the Deity for the blessings conferred upon him and upon the human race during the expiring twelve months. This is well and as it should be; but it is too one-sided. No one ever seems to think of the Deity's side of it; apparently no one concerns himself to inquire how much or how little He has had to be thankful for during the same period; apparently no one has had good feeling enough to wish He might have a Thanksgiving Day, too. There is nothing right about this."

"Is Everything Satisfactory to Him?"

"Do you suppose everything has gone to His satisfaction during the year? Do you believe He is as sweepingly thankful as our nation is going to be, as indicated by the enthusiasms which will appear in the papers on the thirtieth of this month from the pens of the distinguished persons appointed to phrase its thankfulness on that day?"

"We may be unstintedly thankful but can that be really the case with Him? If He had a voice how would He regard the year's results in Russia? What would He be thankful for there? The servants of that government in patriotic obedience to its commands have lately killed and wounded 50,000 Jews by unusual and unpleasant methods, butchering the men and the women with knife and bayonet; flinging them out of windows; saturating them with kerosene, and setting fire to them; shutting them up in cellars and smothering them with smoke; drenching the children with boiling water; tearing other children asunder by the methods of the Middle Ages. Doubtless, the most that He can be thankful for is that the carnage and suffering are not as bad as they might have been."

"Life Insurance Tolerably Rotten."

"He will have noticed that life insurance in New York has gone tolerably rotten, and that the widow and the orphan have had a sorrowful time of it at the hands of their chosen protectors. Doubtless, the most that He is thankful for is that the rottenness and the robberies have not been absolutely complete. He has noticed that the political smell ascending from New York, Philadelphia, and sixty or seventy other municipalities has been modified a little – temporarily – and is doubtless thankful for the transient reprieve."

"He has observed that King Leopold's destruction of innocent life in the Congo is not as great this year as it was last, by as much as 100,000 victims, because of diminishing material; he also has noticed that America and other great powers – accessories before the fact and re-

sponsible for these murders, especially America – are properly thankful on our Thanksgiving Day and for nineteen previous Thanksgiving Days; and without doubt He is himself thankful that matters in the Congo are not as irretrievably bad as they might be, and that some of the natives are still left alive.”

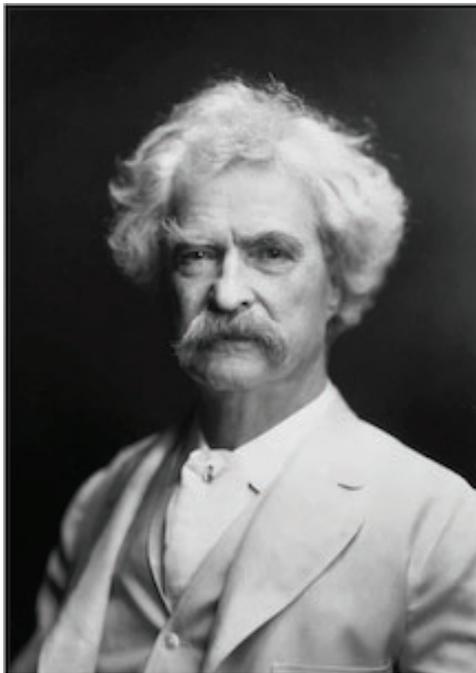
“Not as Rosy as Ours.”

“One is justified in fearing that the Deity’s Thanksgiving Day is not as rosy as ours will appear when the Thanksgiving sentiments blossom out in our journals and that if He, now voiceless, should utter a sentiment it would be tinged with a pathetic regret.”

I chose this work because it forced me to ask myself the following question. “Am I only giving thanks for what I am receiving when I should also be asking myself, ‘Am I giving of myself in such a way that others would be thankful?’” In my mind that is a very chivalric paradigm and one that I hope you found worthy enough to suffer through a bit of admonishment to attain.

I hope that you and your family have a blessed Thanksgiving and not only are thankful for what you have received, but find new ways to bless others so that they have a reason to give thanks.

Sir Knight Michael C. Rohman, Hospitaler Committee Chairman



Mark-Twain by A.F. Bradley - 1907

THANKING THE LORD

The year was 588 BC. The Babylonians invaded Jerusalem. The invaders destroyed the city walls. The invaders destroyed King Solomon’s Temple. The invaders killed thousands of Jews and captured many thousands of Jews to be taken back to Babylon as slaves.

One hundred and thirty years after those terrible events occurred, the Lord created a way for the descendants of the Jewish slaves in Babylon to be freed and allowed to return to Jerusalem. The Book of Ezra chronicles the rebuilding of God’s Temple that had been demolished. The demolition of the First Temple had devastated the Jewish nation. Its walls had been torn down. The Holy Altar had been smashed. The Holy of Holies – the holiest of Jewish places where the High Priest had annually met with God – where the sacred sacrifices to the Lord were conducted on the behalf of the Jewish people – had been violated, desecrated, and destroyed.

The Jewish people were finally free to return to their homeland and there to properly worship God in the holy city of Jerusalem. They joyfully began the work of constructing the Second Temple. Their pain and suffering at the hands of the Babylonians was over. Their faith in the Lord had resulted in their salvation. He had watched over them during the unhappy years to deliver them out of captivity. The words of Psalm 118 was in their hearts and on their lips as they began to lay the foundation of the new Temple.

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.”
(Psalm 118: 1, NIV)

This Psalm, so important to Companions of the Chapter, is a favorite among many people. It fills the heart with praise for the Lord when we hear it. It reminds us that the Lord is good and that his love and mercy never ends in spite of what we are experiencing in life. It should also remind us that we need to give thanks for the multitude of blessings that our good and merciful Lord grants us. When we take time from our busy lives to thank the Lord, we can realize how fortunate we are.

The Psalm reminds us that there are two reasons for giving thanks. The first is that the Lord is good. The second is that the Lord’s love or mercy endures forever. The Lord is eternal and changeless. The Lord is just and pure. The Lord is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent. The Lord is unlike any pagan deity, unlike the devil, and unlike humanity for he is good all of the time. The Lord is also merciful. His love and mercy is boundless and intimate. His love and mercy makes salvation possible. He is merciful even in judgment. His love and mercy is divine and constant.

In these difficult times dealing with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the world-wide supply chain issues, and the increased cost of living; it is hard to push all of the issues aside and take inventory of all of the blessings in our lives. Every day and especially at Thanksgiving we need to realize the goodness of the Lord and give thanks for his love and mercy.