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# MASONRY IN MANITOBA

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## THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



Greetings Brethren.,  
As we take a few moments to reflect on the activities of these past few weeks, I would like to thank the 28 brothers who accompanied me to Langdon. We enjoyed a wonderful evening of fellowship with the Grand Master, MW Bro. Alvin Wold of North Dakota and the Brethren of Langdon Lodge.

As well, a number of Brethren traveled to a meeting of Brandon Lodge No. 19 to welcome back seven of our Masonic Brethren who had returned from serving in Afghanistan. The Grand Master warmly welcomed the Brethren home and thanked them for bravely serving our country and also for working towards improving of the unbearable living conditions that so many are forced to endure in that part of the world.

The first Grand Lodge Holiday Season Open House held in a number of years was a wonderful afternoon for the approximately 80 Brethren and Ladies who braved the cold to attend. The entertainment provided by Lady Rita Goodmanson, her friend Lisa Hunchak and VW Bro. Gordon Fardoe added to the enjoyment of the afternoon. The highlight of the afternoon was the unveiling of the Masonic Family Tree. It was a particularly special occasion as members of the Masonic Family gathered to take part in the unveiling along with the artist Christine Bain of Pinnacle Group. Our special thank you to Past Queen of Sphinx Temple No 116 Daughters of the Nile, Lady Joy Derhak and Past Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star, Lady Rae Anderson for spearheading this very significant undertaking to promote the Masonic Family.

RW Bro Kris Goodmanson and the Grand Master met a number of times with staff members of the Canadian

Museum for Human Rights to discuss our plans for joining them on their "Journey of Hope." The "Journey of Hope" will give each of us an opportunity to contribute to the building of this magnificent and lasting museum to mankind with our "Just a Buck" campaign, which was proposed by RW Bro. Kris Goodmanson and presented at the Board of General Purposes Meeting held on January 16th. In the months ahead RW Bro. Kris Goodmanson will be attending Lodge meetings to promote the "Just a Buck" campaign which is a wonderful opportunity to promote both the Canadian Museum for Human Rights and Masonry as a whole. It is my hope that all Lodges will support this great undertaking.

The Grand Lodge of Manitoba would like to offer our sincere congratulations to Noble Don Thomson on being elected as the Potentate of Khartum Shrine for 2009. I have had a genuinely strong working relationship with Illustrious Sir Don for the past eight years and am looking forward to working alongside him during the coming months as we continue working towards strengthening the relationship between the Grand Lodge of Manitoba and Khartum Shrine. We wish both he and Lady Dawn our best wishes and every success during this coming year.

Brethren I look forward to visiting with many of you in this New Year. For those Lodges that we have not visited please submit your request for an Official Visit by the Grand Master to the Grand Secretary in the near future.

Fraternally,  
Ted

*Seek to mentor a Brother Mason.  
It's good for him, it's good for you,  
and it's good for Freemasonry.*

## GRAND MASTER'S ITINERARY

### FEBRUARY 2009

2	Sturgeon Creek Lodge — An evening in honour of MW Bro. John Reid, PGM	Sturgeon Creek Masonic Hall	7:45 pm	O V
7	Condition of Freemasonry	MMC	10:00 am	
7	Order of the Eastern Star		6:00 pm	
9	Empire Lodge	Empire Masonic Hall	7:30 pm	O V
11	Acacia Lodge 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	East Kildonan Temple	8:00 pm	O V
12 - 18	North American Conference of Grand Masters			
21	Master Mason Degree Workshop	MMC	9:00 am	
26	Cavalier Lodge	Cavalier, North Dakota		

### MARCH 2009

9	Ophir Lodge 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	Masonic Hall, Beausejour	7:00 pm	OV
11	Wheat City Lodge	Masonic Temple, Brandon	8:00 pm	OV
20	Board of General Purposes	MMC	7:00 pm	
27 - 28	All Canada Conference of Grand Masters			
30	Masonic Memorial Centre Annual Meeting	MMC	7:30 pm	

### APRIL 2009

2	Fenwick Lodge	Masonic Temple, Brandon	8:00 pm	OV
3	Capitol Lodge	East Kildonan Temple	7:45 pm	OV
7	Carberry Lodge	Carberry Masonic Building	8:00 pm	OV
17	Board of General Purposes	MMC	7:00 pm	
23	Mound Lodge	Masonic Hall, Pilot Mound	8:00 pm	OV

*Requests for Grand Master's Official Visits must be made in writing to the Grand Secretary.*

## A TREATISE ON SAINTS AND LOVE

February, of course, is marked by St. Valentine's Day. This is a celebration not of the brotherly love which we espouse but of the more passionate and physical love which exists between man and woman. There is also a more profound love, such as expressed by Elizabeth Barrett Browning who asks:

*How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
my soul can reach, when feeling out of sight  
for the ends of Being and ideal Grace.  
I love thee to the level of everyday's  
most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.  
I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;  
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.  
I love thee with a passion put to use  
in my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.  
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
with my lost saints, --I love thee with the breath,  
smiles, tears of all my life! And if God choose,  
I shall but love thee better after death.*

The Volume of the Sacred Law also contains a few lines dealing with this subject. St. Paul writes of Charity in 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13. Today the word 'charity' has been replaced by 'love' but in its original context it embraced the widest definition of the word; respect, consideration, tolerance and when required assistance. It reads:

4. *Charity suffereth long and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaulteth not itself, is not puffed up.*
5. *Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;*
6. *Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth.*
7. *Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.*
8. *Charity never faileth.....*

It is amazing how closely our Five Points of Fellowship fit into this general philosophy. With a handshake we acknowledge every man as a brother - regardless of the differences which divide others; we pledge to travel to his side and support him in all his difficulties; we swear we will include him in our prayers; we agree to be his confidant and finally we promise to uphold his good name at all times, even when it would be expedient to do otherwise. This exemplifies the 'Charity' of Biblical times and in the 18<sup>th</sup> century when our ritual was being developed and this is the strength of our fraternity.

As a modern lover's festival Valentine's Day is probably more connected to a pagan Roman festival than to the saint(s) whose name it bears. There were two Saints with this name both of whom suffered martyrdom. Their accounts are legendary and do seem to be based upon some historical foundation but may actually refer to only one person. It may be appropriate at this time to look at the lives of five other saints and one, whose life story we are well acquainted with, who is soon to be canonized.

The heart pierced by an arrow is similar to our symbol portraying a point within a circle, which is well known to Master Masons. This symbol is of extreme antiquity as early Egyptian monuments are carved with the Alpha and the Omega or symbol of God in the center of a circle bordered by two upright, parallel perpendicular serpents, representing the power and wisdom of the Creator. Early speculative Freemasonry

*(Continued on page 4)*

adopted this symbol, placing the two Saints John on either side of the circle. Students of Freemasonry suggest many interpretations. Having neither beginning nor ending the circle displays the omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresent nature of the Creator. Each individual is represented by the point in the center and the size of his circle marks his influence in his society. It may also point out that because the Creator exists within the circle He also exists within each of us. The two vertical lines mark the limits of the sun as it reaches the winter and summer solstices. St. John the Evangelist day is December 27<sup>th</sup> and St. John the Baptist is marked on June 24<sup>th</sup>. The original Grand Lodge of England was formed on St. John the Baptist Day, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1717. No satisfactory explanation has been suggested for the Craft, which was abandoning its Christian character in favor of a more universal and non denominational format, to adopt these two Christian saints. There were a couple of alternatives. St. Thomas, who carries a square or builder's rule, is the patron saint of architecture and building may have been an obvious choice. So too was St. Barbara. Her's is an interesting story. She was the daughter of a pagan and for some unknown reason was kept guarded in a tower. Upon admitting to her conversion to Christianity she was subsequently tortured and beheaded. On his way home from her execution her father was struck by lightning, hence the belief that she could protect those whose work on high spires placed them in similar peril. She is the patroness of architects and builders.

There is another whose work closely parallels the philosophy of the Craft. He was St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226). He was born at Assisi in Umbria, the son of a clothing merchant and a lady perhaps of noble lineage. After an uneventful childhood he participated in a war between Assisi and Perugia where he was captured. Upon his release he fell seriously ill and a vision prompted him to return to Assisi. He adopted a life of solitude and prayer and had a vision of Christ in a grotto near Assisi. He experienced poverty during a pilgrimage to Rome and again had a vision in which a crucifix commanded him to 'repair my house'. He renounced all material goods and dedicated himself to restoring churches and chapels. He considered all nature as the mirror of God, all creatures as his 'brothers and sisters' and also made reference to 'brother Sun' and 'sister death'. In 1209 his order received verbal approval from Innocent III and by 1223 Honorius III granted formal approval of his Franciscans. In 1224 he had a vision of a Seraph on a cross. As the vision faded it left him inwardly with a greater love of the 'inner man' and outwardly with the 'Stigmata of the Crucified'. He took great care to hide these wounds. He died only two years later and was canonized in 1228. His legacy includes this famous prayer, which is one we could all take to heart:

*Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.  
O Divine Master,  
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood, as to understand;  
to be loved, as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.*

*So Mote it Be.*

*(Continued on page 5)*

One day soon a woman, who following an almost intimate relationship with Christ dedicated herself to working with orphans in the slums of Calcutta, will be canonized and will be recorded in history as St. Teresa. Following her death, letters in which she questioned not only her faith but the very existence of God have been made public. As she sought counseling it was explained to her that 'feeling' Jesus is not the only proof of his being there and that her craving for God was a sure sign of his 'hidden presence' in her life. Despite her spiritual 'vacuum' she continued her life's passion. Her passion for her work was rewarded as she recognized the 'divinity' of those poor little lost souls. She was honored with the Nobel Peace Prize for her work.

As we face life's little or great challenges it is natural to turn to prayer and like Mother Teresa there may not be an obvious answer to our calls for help. Her faith enabled her to remain steadfast to her chosen task, even when it seemed that there was no response to her prayers. May she be an inspiration to all of us who are seeking...

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## **MASTER MASON DEGREE WORKSHOP** **Saturday, February 21, 2009**

One of the marvels of our ritual is the careful selection and use of the most appropriate word to convey a particular message. The word 'sublime' is used as an adjective to enhance the prestige of this degree. There are many others which could have achieved the same result however now consider this word as a verb. This lends a whole new dimension to the degree and presents a wonderfully new, different and exciting concept.

The story begins in the North East angle of the Lodge where we laid the cornerstone for the Temple we are now consciously engaged in constructing. As a pattern the ritual leads us through the construction of the earthly dwelling place of Yahweh - the Holy of Holies in Solomon's Temple.

We will look in some detail at the allegorical message contained within this degree and discover the message that Freemasonry teaches. St. Paul lived while Herod's Temple was still standing yet he stated: *"Do you not know that you are God's Temple and that God's spirit dwells in you?"*

Join us and see how the pieces of the puzzle fit together!

Lodge secretaries have further information and registration forms or you can register electronically with the Grand Secretary.

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## **NOMINATIONS FOR GRAND LODGE POSITIONS**

The Grand Secretary reminds you that the deadline for nominations for the Grand Lodge Officers and members of the Board of General Purposes is March 15<sup>th</sup> 2009. If you know a worthy brother who would serve the Craft well please consider asking him to stand for election this year. The rules and procedure for the nomination process are printed below:

**R-18.1** Eight members of the Board shall be elected for a three year term by ballot, at each Annual Communication of Grand Lodge. Any additional vacancies that may exist among the elected members of the Board shall be filled by election for the unexpired term thereof, by ballot at each Annual Communication of Grand Lodge.

**C-19** Nominations for the elective offices of Grand Lodge and for the Board shall be made in writing by a member of Grand Lodge and received in the office of the Grand Secretary not later than the fifteenth day of March preceding the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge at which they are to be presented. Each nominee shall be a Past Master and a member in good standing of Grand Lodge, resident within the Province of Manitoba.

Forms are available from the Grand Lodge Office. Contact Information can be found on the last page of this publication.

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## **LODGE EDUCATION OFFICERS' WORKSHOP** **MMC - April 11, 2009**

Each Lodge is expected to appoint a Lodge Education Officer whose role is to ensure that there is some meaningful education presented at every meeting. He should be a facilitator rather than the only source of knowledge and inspiration. Most LEO's find the brethren quite willing, willing to let them do it all that is! Subsequently this important aspect of Freemasonry too often is overlooked as the LEOs are venturing into unfamiliar territory and the brethren are unaccustomed to taking an active part in their own education and development.

To make this happen we need to initiate a paradigm shift. We need to made education an important part of our meeting and develop a culture where a meeting without education just doesn't seem complete. This workshop is designed to give the LEOs and anyone who thinks that he could make a contribution as a LEO some important information. It will begin with a crash course in pedagogy, we will throw in a few examples of that might be a suitable presentation and perhaps most importantly the brethren attending will have the opportunity to 'network' with other LEOs, to compare programs and learn from those who are successful in their Lodges.

This workshop is scheduled for MMC on Saturday morning, April 11th. Lodge secretaries will soon have further information and registration forms.

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### **SHORT TALK COMPETITION**

One of the distinguishing characteristics of the species known as *Homo sapiens* is his ability to communicate. The subtle nuances and wide variety of synonyms make it possible to develop a unique writing style. Indeed one of the attributes that is most marketable is the ability to communicate effectively. Yet today young people employ an electronic shorthand which stifles any attempt at literary creativity. Without a conscious effort our ability to express ourselves effectively will go the way of penmanship. We look back at Lodge minutes of a century ago and marvel at the beautiful writing displayed by our predecessors. True they may be almost impossible to read but they are written beautifully with a style and flourish unique to each secretary.

Each year we offer an opportunity for our membership to not only increase their knowledge of the Craft but to convey that information in a format that both the presenter and the reader will find interesting, entertaining and, heaven forbid, meaningful for him in his personal development.

The deadline isn't until April 30<sup>th</sup> so there is ample time to select an appropriate Masonic topic and complete any required research.

Next month we will disclose the particulars of the competition. We look forward to a number of interesting papers.

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MW Bro. Ted Jones (ex officio)

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Scott Howarth - Editor

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