



## Grand Prelate's Monthly Message

AUGUST 2023

In Acts 11:22-24 we read about Barnabas' trip to Antioch. Barnabas gives us a wonderful example of how to encourage and support people. He demonstrated strong faith, he ministered joyfully with kindness and encouragement. He taught new Christians further lessons about God.

Every group needs an encourager, because everyone needs encouragement at one time or another. However, the value of encouragement is often missed because it tends to be private rather than public.

Barnabas was drawn to people he could encourage, and he was a great help to those around him. In fact, whenever Barnabas encouraged Christians, non-Christians flocked to join them.

We are often presented with situations where there is someone who needs encouragement. But our tendency as humans is often to criticize instead. Now it may be necessary to sometimes point out something that needs improving, but we must first be working to help people improve.

Sir Knights, as Christian masons, it is our job to be men of God, serving His purposes and helping others to be all that God has called them to be. Like Barnabas, what if we were to take up the "Ministry of Encouragement", purposely looking for what's going right and taking time to affirm it? Can we open our eyes and hearts today to all the strengths and virtues present in ourselves, in others, in the workplace, in our community and country?"

As Christian Masons our goal should be to do our part in building each other up. To work together to find ways to improve our brother Sir Knights, and find ways to make our commanderies stronger, so that we can have an impact on the community around us. It is also our duty to reach out to help new masons to grow and learn; whether they choose to join our ranks, or not.

If we truly follow Barnabas' example, then just like the Bible tells us how non-Christians flocked to join the Christians when they saw the impact of Barnabas' encouragement and teaching, then we may just as well see brothers coming to join our efforts if they see us doing the same thing and see the good works that we can accomplish as a result. So, remember Barnabas' example and think of ways to help each other, and our commanderies, to work together in serving God.

Always and All Ways in Christ,

Rick Saunders  
*Grand Prelate*