



**The Grand Council of the Independent Order of Mechanics, Friendly Society**  
*of*  
**Earth, Central and South America, Islands of the Seas, and the entire Western Hemisphere Incorporated**

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**Rt. Hon. Walter L. Benjamin**  
**Most Worshipful Grand Master**

**2018 St John's Day  
 Message**

To My Fellow Companions - Greetings:

Today we celebrate the commemoration of St. John the Baptist our Patron Saint of the Grand Christian Encampments.

In proclaiming this day as a special celebration for the Grand Christian Encampments, our Founding Fathers must have envisioned that there was perhaps no other area of the Mechanics Order which represents or compare to the splendor, devotion, and spirituality as exhibited and experienced in a celebration such as St. John's Day.

Grand Christian Encampments preserves the memories of the Crusaders, the Knights who devoted their lives for the preservation of Christianity. Today, we continue to observe, celebrate and honor the bravery, chivalry, and courage of those Noble Knights who endured persecution and sometimes death.

Our Patron Saint was a preacher of righteous living. The Gospel tells us John was preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (Mk1:4; Lk 3:3) The forcefulness of his message of Repentance and Baptism had to result in a change in one's life; "for there was only one coming who was mightier than him", so he declared himself unworthy even to untie the thongs of his sandals. "The One who is to come is the Messiah, the Christ through whom God is to execute his final judgement".

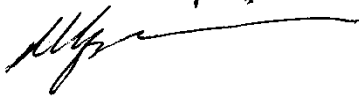
As Sir Knight Companions, let us not forget the characteristics of the sword, especially in the hand of a Sir Knight; and as members of the Christian Faith, how much "it is necessary for us to forgive"

I hope that this celebration will be a day of reflection and prayer for all of us, and we will be renewed with oneness of spirit as we continue on our Mechanics Journey.

Cont'd.....

On behalf of the Executive Committee of Grand Council, I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all members of the Clergy, for accommodating members of the various District Grand Jurisdictions around the world, and to all Sir Knight Companions, may you have a wonderful celebration with family, friends and other members of the Independent United Order of Mechanics, Friendly Society, Western Hemisphere, Inc.

Have a Happy Saint John's Day.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Walter L. Benjamin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rt. Hon. Walter L. Benjamin  
Most Worshipful Grand Master

**"Members Matter Most"**