



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



ST. JOHN'S DAY MESSAGE  
FROM THE  
RT. HON. ERROL G. COLLINS  
MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER  
OF  
THE GRAND COUNCIL OF THE INDEPENDENT UNITED ORDER OF MECHANICS,  
FRIENDLY SOCIETY OF NORTH, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA, ISLAND OF THE  
SEAS AND THE ENTIRE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, INCORPORATED.

GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF THE GREAT GEOMATRICIAN OF THE UNIVERSE AND  
PEACE BE WITH YOU MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son. That whosoever  
believeth in him shall not perish but have everlasting life". John 3:16*

It is the written custom that on June 24<sup>th</sup> or the closes Sunday to that date,  
members of the **INDEPENDENT UNITED ORDER OF MECHANICS, FRIENDLY  
SOCIETY, WESTERN HEMISPHERE, INCORPORATED**, commemorate the life of our  
patron saint, John the Baptist.

As your Most Worshipful Grand Master, I bring greetings from the Executive  
Committee of Grand Council. I further take this opportunity to greet you in  
FRIENDSHIP LOVE AND TRUTH. Moreover, I extend to you and your families a  
blessed, reflective and most enjoyable St. John's Day.

As members of this noble Order, we gather to participate throughout the Diaspora in glorious adoration to celebrate our beloved Patron St. John the Baptist.

The Gospel of MARK introduced JOHN as a fulfillment of a prophecy from the book of ISAIAH. He was born in Herodian in the Kingdom of Judea and died in Machaerus in Jordan. John the Baptist was a precursor or forerunner of Jesus Christ, and a man of Faith with great determination to fulfill the duty that was allotted to him. He persistently went around preaching the message of the coming of the Messiah.

*“The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.”* John 1:9 – 10.

As we pay homage to our Patron Saint, let us take time out of our busy schedules to reflect on the life and works of this phenomenal figure, St. John the Baptist, who stood firmly in his belief and at no time deviated from the duty assigned to him by God to be fulfilled. John the Baptist dedicated his life to service of others, assuming the simplest of lifestyles, yet whose persona attracted the masses that received his message and believe in him.

John the Baptist was a contemporary of Christ who was known for evangelization and his baptizing of Jesus Christ.

John was born through the intercession of God to Zachariah and Elizabeth, who was otherwise too old to bear children. According to the scriptures, the Angel Gabriel visited Elizabeth and Zachariah to tell them they would have a son and that they should name him John. Zachariah was skeptical and for this he rendered mute until the time his son was born and named him John, in fulfillment of God's will.

When Elizabeth was pregnant with John, she was visited by Mary, and John leapt in her womb. This revealed to Elizabeth that the child Mary carried was to be the son of God. John began public ministry around 30 AD, and was known for attracting large crowds across the province of Judaea and around the Jordan River. When Jesus came to him to be baptized, John recognized him and said, *“it is I who need baptism from you”*

Jesus told John to baptize Him anyway, which he did, whereupon the heavens opened, and the spirit of God was seen like a dove. The voice of GOD spoke, saying, *“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”*

John instructed his followers to turn to Christ, calling Him the “Lamb of GOD” and these people were among the first Christians.” Behold the Lamb of GOD, which taketh away the sins of the World” John 1: 29.

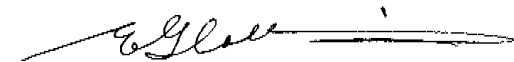
John the Baptist provides for us the perfect example of one who answered his services above and beyond the call of duty. He paid the ultimate sacrifice for his

faith and outspokenness. *"I tell you, among those born of woman; there is no one greater than John"* Luke 7; 28. I urge you to read the story of Nicodemus. John 3:1:21

Following his baptism of Christ, John's popularity grew so much that he alarmed King Herod. Herod ordered him arrested and imprisoned. John spoke with Herod on several occasions and condemned his marriage to his half—brother's wife. This condemnation would be his downfall as King Herod promised to grant a wish to his daughter.

In revenge for John the Baptist condemnation of her mother's scandalous marriage to Herod she asked for John's head, King Herod reluctantly obliged. John the Baptist died sometime between 33 and 36 AD.

My Fellow Companions go in peace and serve the Lord.



RT. HON. ERROL G. COLLINS  
Most Worshipful Grand Master