

*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*

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

**Message  
From  
Most Worshipful  
Grand Master**

Fraternal Greetings:

Once again, Sir Knight Companions around the world are gathered together in celebration of yet another St. John's Day celebration, in commemoration of our Patron Saint, St. John the Baptist.

St. John as you know was the fore-runner of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, as was foretold by the prophets Isaiah and Malachi hundreds of years BC. *Isaiah 40:3: The voice of him who cries out, "Prepare the way of the Lord in the wilderness; make straight in the desert a highway for our God" and Malachi 3:1: "I will send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me."* John came as a voice crying out in the wilderness, and fulfilled his task as the "forerunner" who would prepare the way (hearts of the people) for their long awaited Savior, "JESUS CHRIST."

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As Sir Knights of the Order, we are called to be Christ like, helping our Brothers and Sisters in need, and to practice the essential virtues of knighthood: Courage, Justice, Mercy, Generosity, Faith, Nobility and Hope.

- Courage to undertake the tasks which are difficult, while graciously accepting the sacrifices that are necessary to undertake those tasks.
- Justice when faced with difficult decisions to ensure fairness and equality
- Mercy in dealing with others, and creating a sense of peace rather than hostility
- Generosity by sharing not only material goods, but our time, attention, wisdom and energy in the things that create a strong, rich and diverse community.
- Faith especially in our “Christian Walk” knowing that the All-Seeing Eye is always watching us.
- Nobility in our interactions with a strong conviction to uphold meekness, gentleness and kindness all times
- Hope with a cheerful demeanor to inspire those around us.

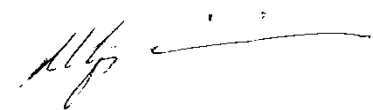
Each of these virtues is important. However when blend together, serving with integrity, our families, friends and associates will observe and experience the true qualities of a Christian Knight reflecting like a shining armor in us. On this St. John’s Day, *“let our light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify our Father which is in heaven.”* I call upon all Sir Knights of the Order, to continue to be “Beacons of Hope” and to protect and defend the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, thereby honoring our Patron Saint, St. John the Baptist.

May you be blessed on this day, and as you celebrate in your various worship services, *“May the words of our mouth and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable unto Christ”.*

On behalf of the Executive Committee of Grand Council, all District Grand Jurisdictions, and all Mechanics wherever dispersed, may you have a wonderful and happy St. John’s Day, and may Peace and Love continue to reign in our hearts.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our 26<sup>th</sup> Triennial International Convention in the Republic of Panama, October 18 – 27, 2019.

God Bless you all.



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

**"Serving with Integrity"**