

Response by GM ,Templum Fidelis Lodge No. 746, Bath Ontario, June 06, 2009

R.W. Bro. Thomas W Hogeboom, Wor. Master Templum Fidelis

M.W. Bro. Terence Shand , PGM and GS

M.W. Bro. Donald H Mumby, PGM and Custodian of the work

R.W. Bro. Raymond S. J. Daniels, Deputy Grand Master

R.W. Bro. David Quinn, DDGM Frontenac District

GLOs

Head Table Guests

Brethren

In the name of the MW the GL of AF and AM of Can in the Prov. of Ont. and on behalf of myself and the Grand Lodge Officers present I thank you W. Bro. Jeff Gatcke for your toast to GL

It was well spoken...eloquent and appreciated.

Congratulations, W Bro Gatcke, on your newest addition to the family "Alexander" .

We'll watch for him 21 years from now.

Comments were then made regarding the excellent banquet, especially the Raisin pie, the beautiful surroundings of the newly renovated Lodge premises, the great fellowship.

Today marks a big day in the life of our Grand Lodge and in this district. For three years I have looked forward to this day and had placed it on the objectives of the Grand Lodge Strategic Plan at the beginning of my term. That being to form a new lodge,

.....a Traditional Observance Lodge which I had read about over the years but have never had an opportunity to see in action.

In this day and age when so many lodges have been amalgamating and some have gone into darkness..... Here was a ray of hope that a new kind of lodge could be born that

would usher in a different method of conducting lodge that might have an appeal to those seeking a more esoteric form of Masonry and would be willing to pay for the experience.

The ritual stays the same but the concept is different. It follows the European and Australian trend to make Masonry more meaningful to the new candidate.

I explored the Templum Fidelis Website which has a wealth of knowledge about this kind of Lodge. I congratulate your webmaster, W. Bro. Graeme McDonald, as it has a unique and appealing appearance, easy to navigate and interesting to read.

It has archived several interesting papers given by well known personalities such as R.W. Bro. Terence Horner(MBGP), R.W. Bro. David Sheen(PMBGP), the Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Raymond S.J. Daniels , Bro. Sean Peres and others. Each is well written and from the heart and visiting brethren might do well to go online and read these papers. The paper by Bro. Eric Diamond is interesting to say the least on the Jewish connections and history.

For those who are not members I will comment from an excellent paper found on the site given by Bro. Dennis Chornenky, who was to be here with us today and who is a guru in this type of Lodge, which explains what a Lodge of Traditional Observance is.

Meetings and conferral of degrees are approached in a solemn manner, an atmosphere is created whereby members can learn the lessons of Freemasonry and how they inculcate their learning into their everyday life.

There is a requirement for a candidate to present a paper on the lessons of each degree before moving on to the next degree.

This, what we are enjoying at the present moment, is called the **agape** and symbolizes the spirit of brotherly love in which the meal is taken. The United Church and others have used this Greek term meaning Love for many years and now it has come to Freemasonry. He says generally a lodge of this type will perhaps have less than 50 members and an ambience is created with meaningful fellowship, stimulating dialogue and enriching programs.

If music is a part of the ceremony it will be generally taken from the 18th century and might very well have a relationship to the Masonic mysteries.

Silence after the lodge is open or before degrees may be called for by the Worshipful Master.

I know there are many more nuances that members of a Lodge of Traditional Observance must observe and traditions that are carried on.

You may, again, wish to go onto the website to read the whole paper. What we will see today can not be a true representation of a normal meeting as the ceremony of Constitution and Consecration is performed by Grand Lodge. I am sure future meetings will get back to what is normal.

After the Lodge is Constituted we will then perform the
The Masonic Rite of Consecration, in which according to ancient custom, corn, wine, and oil are spread on the Ark.

In the sacred writings of the ancient Hebrews we read: *“If you pay heed to the commandments which I give you this day, and love the Lord your God and serve him with all your heart and soul, then I will send rain for your land in season, both autumn and spring rains, and you will gather your corn and new wine and oil, and I will provide pasture in the field for your cattle: you shall eat your fill.”* (Deuteronomy 11: 14-15 New English Bible)

I’d like to borrow from comments our Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Raymond S. J. Daniels, made concerning the symbolism of Corn, Wine and Oil.

In the time of King Solomon, to which we as Masons trace our traditional history,... corn, wine, and oil were the wages paid for their physical labour to our ancient operative brethren engaged in building the great Temple at Jerusalem.

In ancient times our Indian corn, or maize, was unknown. The most common grains were wheat, barley, and spelt. The Hebrew scriptures refer to Israel as *“a land of corn and wine.”*

Wheat fields, vineyards, and olive groves were and are abundant in Judea. In ancient times wine was considered to be a spiritual drink. Oil was used for food, as a cosmetic, for medicinal purposes, for light as fuel in lamps, for ritual offerings, and for anointing.

Since the seventh century, coronation ceremonies of British monarchs have included anointing with holy oil.

The ritual use of corn, wine, and oil in Masonic ceremonies originates in the use of these sacramental elements as offerings and oblations – bloodless sacrifices presented in the Temple. The writings of the Hebrew scribe Ezra make reference to “... *wheat, salt, wine or oil, as the priests in Jerusalem demand, so that they may offer soothing sacrifices to the God of heaven ...*” (Ezra 6: 9 New English Bible)

To us in these ceremonies the **Corn** of nourishment, the fruit of the land, **is an emblem of plenty;**
 the **Wine** of refreshment, the juice of the grape, is an **emblem of joy and gladness,** and
 the **Oil** of joy, the essence of the olive, is an **emblem of peace and unanimity.**

These elements are poured out as our humble oblation to the Creator of all things, in grateful thanksgiving for the abundance of the necessities, conveniences, and comforts of life. May the Most High grant to the members of this Lodge and to all present here and everywhere, in needed supply, the Corn of nourishment, the Wine of refreshment, and the Oil of joy!

For those of you who have never witnessed their use in one of these ceremonies I am sure you will find it interesting and enlightening and I hope there is space for all within the Lodge room.

Brethren of Templum Fidelis, still U.D. for another hour, I thank you for your hospitality and wish you all the best for success with this Lodge. You are certainly off to a great beginning, filled with a momentum that we all hope will continue. May the Great Architect ever pour his blessings upon you.

Allan J. Petrisor

Grand Master

June 06, 2009