



Grand Collège des Rites Ecossais

SUPRÊME CONSEIL DU 33^e DEGRÉ EN FRANCE
1764 - 1804
GODF

Monthly letter 160 - June 2023

Dearest Brothers and Sisters,

All too often, we can observe a phenomenon of band wagoning and one-upmanship in the media, which robs words of their true meaning. Thus, according to some, our society is supposed to be caught in a process of “de-civilisation.” It is time for us to remember that we must not “mistake words for ideas.” When rivalries arise between citizens, our role as freemasons of the Grand Orient of France and members of our Scottish Rite Jurisdiction, is clear: in a unifying approach, we ought to contribute to the material, social and cultural progress of a society in which individuals are united, not divided.

If our world is to be called into question, it should be with the support of all possible lights of human reason, in order to make it more just and enlightened.

That is our fight, perhaps even against ourselves, as our rituals invite us to progress at each stage in our Rite, as well as to take action in the world for maintaining and defending our values of Liberty, Equality, Fraternity and Secularism (*laïcité*) in an environment of free spirituality aiming at restoring a debate similar to that which prevails in our Lodges, democratic and respectful of others.

Our ritual of Secret Master reminds us that “*Freemasonry helps us to leave the land of ignorance, prejudice and superstition, thus taking us away from bondage and error.*”

Our motto, “*Ordo ab Chao - Suum Cuique Jus* » is more relevant than ever: each and every one ought to receive what is owed to him/her, and order for the sake of order must never be a priority.

In this period when new College Officers are elected in every Lodge of the Jurisdiction, when transitions and transmissions ensure the permanence of our institutions, and in spite of social unrest, on my own behalf and on behalf of our Supreme Council, I want to thank our Most Ill. Brother Georges LASSOUS, past Sovereign Grand Commander, for his action at the head of our Jurisdiction over which he presided with great wisdom for the last three years, during and after the pandemic, thus ensuring its stability and renewal.

After those hand-overs concerning all Lodges, and the upcoming summer season, we must not lay down our tools, but remain, instead well aware of our duties towards our members, permanently on the watch for perceiving ever more completely a world which we always hope to be better and more enlightened.

Can we, one day, dare hope for peaceful rest?

Allow me to make use of Albert Camus' words: *in spite of winter* [which encircles us], I wish you *an invincible summer* (1) and I hope to meet all of you again in Paris during our next Great Meetings at the end of August, for sharing this necessary fraternity.

I assure you all of my fraternal and friendly feelings.

M. Ill. Br. Christian CONFORTINI, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander,

(1) *Noces suivi de L'été (retour à Tipasa) 1938*

