



Newsletter n°193 – January 2024

Paris Zenith, January 15th 2024 (C.E.)

Dearest Sisters and Brothers,

In the present intermediary period of finishing celebrations which marked men's time with their various traditions, after the winter solstice and the hope of seeing again the light driving away the darkness, I want to renew my best wishes, for yourselves as well as your loved ones, in the context of a "revived hope," through that Scottish Rite "*Joyful Wisdom*" which we share.

May it help us to carry out our individual and collective projects so that, through them, our world becomes more enlightened, in spite of recurring and sometimes dispiriting current events.

Are we not those thinkers, watchers, outriders, those transmitters of hope nay, those guides whom it behoves to gather all actors of our masonic sphere to help make the world a better place?

Our Brother Alphonse Mucha, member of GODF and of our Jurisdiction, wrote around 1897: "*I was looking for the means to spread a light which would illuminate even the remotest corners of the world*": it is up to us to continue spreading that light.

While this period of good wishes encourages sharing and peace beyond all philosophical or religious traditions, it is also symbolic of unity and of the renewal of hope. There lies a new epiphany which is ours.

I do not mean, of course, the Epiphany of the Wise Men of the Tradition, who came from Babylon and followed the star, but that which can be described as a moment of self-accomplishment or self-rediscovery, even within the introspective approach symbolised by our V.I.T.R.I.O.L.

The Epiphany of my wishes for you is none but the culmination of the search for that truth which will help us to better accept the world and others.

It can only result from considerable work on the part of the discoverers that we are, and from a lengthy initiatory process, even of a whole life for us, Scottish Rite freemasons whose guides remain our Rite and our rituals.

We have just entered the winter. There is no predicting when our work will bear fruit, or even whether it does so someday.

*“[...] Even so, keep your courage.
Keep smiling a winner’s smile
Beautiful rainbow, leave the storm!”¹*

We are guided by hope, and as we are reminded by Plato’s allegory of the cave, we must always face the light, because even though it blinds us, it opens up amazing possibilities in the world of ideas and truth. It makes us confront reality with the tool of reason.

A very bright new year 2024 to you, dearest Brothers and Sisters, until we meet at our Grand Meetings in the Spring, share new thoughts, and celebrate our new 2024 masonic year.

M.III.Br. Christian CONFORTINI, 33°
M.P.S.G.C, GCDRE-GODF



¹ Victor HUGO Les contemplations section II, l’âme en fleur – « Il fait froid » hiver 1856