



Newsletter n°201 of April-May 2025

Zenith of Paris, May 5, 2025 (C.E.)

My beloved Sisters and Brothers,

It has returned in the month of May, “...*the time of cherries¹, the merry nightingale and the mockingbird...*”

Beyond the poetic connotations, May opens the period of our common memory: that of respect for our traditions, that of the wounds of our history, which we commemorate on the 1st and 8th of this month for all our Sisters and Brothers in humanity, now deceased, and who, preceding us on the way, fought for our freedom.

It is this time, that of memory, that we must always keep in our hearts. Tradition is progress crowned with success, as we see it once more through the history of our Supreme Council of the Grand College of Ancient Accepted Scottish Rites - GODF, whatever some may think.

" *The uprooting of our past must be stopped,*" Simone Weil², the philosopher, reminds us.

And it is precisely because the history of our Jurisdiction has its roots in the 18th century, that it gives us even more strength and vigour. We share this strength through the symbolism of all our rituals, the practical application of which is expressed in the externalization of our actions.

¹ “Le Temps des cerises” (The Time of Cherries) is a song by Jean-Baptiste Clément very famous in French-speaking countries. It has become a symbol of the shattered hopes of the Paris “Commune” insurrection in 1871.

² Simone Weil: « L’enracinement, prélude à une déclaration des devoirs envers l’être humain », posthumous work published in 1949 by Editions Gallimard.

Thanks to its polymorphic symbolic construction, which constitutes its richness, our Jurisdiction has been able to adapt and transform itself; it will still evolve, but will always remain a Scottish Jurisdiction.

It is the most liberal in the world, despite its historical precedence, and it will continue to follow in the footsteps of our predecessors, while continuing to respect the fundamentals of a full-fledged Scottish Jurisdiction within and alongside our Obedience.

Liberal and adogmatic, committed to the practice of absolute freedom of conscience, a principle enshrined in its Constitution, it advocates through its actions this necessary desire to contribute to the liberation of the human being, both through the initiatory process and through its " *Urbi et Orbi* " action... in our cities and in the world.

Statutes, regulations and an agreement validated by a sovereign Convent define it. Need we recall that " *the Grand Master of the Grand Orient of France is the guardian of the autonomy of all the Jurisdictions that are based on the Obedience, including the Grand College of Scottish Rites - Grand Orient of France (1764-1804)*"³ Those are our roots, also defined by this spiritual need to belong to an environment: that of our symbolic lodges and those of our jurisdiction, but also that of our Obedience and the entire Masonic community, to form both a family and a society in a common opening to ourselves and to the world.

It is the most beautiful representation of the initiatory continuum that we offer: while being different and yet the same in our journey on paths of freedom that converge towards the same ideal.

My beloved Sisters and Brothers, may the long-awaited peace be achieved in the world in this beautiful month of May, and may all carry the sun of renewal in your hearts, even if the merry nightingale and the mockingbird are slow to announce it!

" *The present is both what we live in and the anticipations of a remembered past* " ⁴ " as Paul Ricoeur reminds us, let us never forget it.

With my most fraternal friendship I embrace you.

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



³ Preamble to the Agreement of 26 April 2023 signed and validated by the GODF Convent, on the Jurisdiction's website.

⁴ Paul Ricoeur "Temps et Récit" Volume 1, l'intrigue et le récit historique, October 1991, Editions du Seuil.