

Immediate Past State Deputy Report

Brothers All,

As I reach the milestone of serving you as a State Officer for the twelfth and final year, a number of thoughts go through my mind.

First and foremost, I feel a tremendous sense of gratitude for the honor you have given me to serve you in this capacity. We shared many great times together, serving the Order and our Lord, and these times I will cherish for the rest of my life.

Secondly, I remember the challenging times when I didn't meet your expectations and when my imperfection or my impatience got in the way. For those times, and the sleepless nights that went along with them, I am terribly sorry.

My next thought is to the future and how important our mission is. Regardless of who holds the leadership positions in our State; ordinary men with their strengths and weaknesses, clearly, Jesus Christ is the One leading us through them. Please **"Stay the Course"** and as you serve keep the following words written by Dr. Kent Keith and used by Mother Theresa in mind:

"If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives: Be kind anyway. If you are successful, you will win some false friends and true enemies: Succeed anyway. If you are honest and frank people will try to cheat you: Be honest anyway. What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight: Build anyway. If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous of you: Be happy anyway. The good you do today, will often be forgotten by tomorrow: Do good anyway. Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough: Give your best anyway."

Finally, I would like to thank my wife, Valerie. She has been my rock and my most loyal friend, not only during these last twelve years, but also through our entire forty years together. She is the best thing that has ever happened to me and I am truly blest to have her in my life.

I pray for God's Peace to you all, and I will see you in His service.

Bob Baemmert-IPSD