



Valley of Madison

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite – Northern Masonic Jurisdiction

Reverence for God ▲ Justice ▲ Integrity ▲ Tolerance ▲ Devotion to Country ▲ Service

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An Open Letter to My Scottish Rite and Masonic Brothers:

One of the hats I wear is to chair the “Family Life” committee for our Valley of Madison, AASR-NMJ. This committee deals with the triumphs and distresses of our Brothers. A major portion of the job is to contact brothers in distress. That is why I am writing this. Many of you, my Brothers, are in distress or have Brothers we care about who are in distress.

The fate of the Madison Masonic Center is causing this distress. This worries me. A few months ago, our Valley could be said to be an example to others of brotherly love and true friendship. Today I urge each Member to remember their Masonic Obligations as well as the lessons taught in our degrees. For example, the lessons taught by the simple Compasses - the need to circumscribe our actions and keep our passions within due bounds. We are passionate about our craft, our history, and all the things that bind us together. We are passionate about this topic.

While I love the Madison Masonic Center, I care more for you, my Brothers. The reason I am passionate about the building is not because of the stones or rooms. It is because of the men that I have shared so much with. Our Lodges, Chapters, Orders, and Valleys are not brick and stone. They are flesh and blood. They are my Brothers and Sisters. I find Brothers giving full vent to their passions over stone while forgetting the mortar which binds us together: Friendship and brotherly love.

While I have deep feelings on this issue, my deeper feelings are for any Brother I may lose. Whether we meet on a high hill or in a low vale pales in comparison to disharmony and the loss of a Brother and friend. I urge each of us to take a look at our Masonic Obligations, in particular that noble instrument called the Compasses.

The night you were made a Master Mason, that instrument was applied from your naked left to naked right breast. You were told that in its span was contained the most excellent tenets of our order. Friendship. Morality, Brotherly Love.

In Brotherly Love,

Dave Ritchie, Chaplain

Valley of Madison, AASR-NMJ

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The Fraternity Of Choice