

Master's Message

My Dear Brother,

First of all, I want to give praise to God for giving me the strength, courage and wisdom and for allowing me to serve You, the Craft and the Community. I am deeply honored and privileged to have been nominated, duly elected and installed as the Incumbent Worshipful Master of Cincinnati Lodge #3 in its 206th year of existence.

To RW R. Eugene Hill, PGC, 2008 Worshipful Master, we applaud your tremendous efforts. Thank you for your steady perseverance, for your care of the Craft and for tending the flame that "keeps the Masonic Light Shining" this past year. To the brethren of Cincinnati Lodge #3 for electing me to serve you in this great Lodge as the Worshipful Master for the Masonic Year of 2009. The foundation of this great Lodge has already been established by some great men before me. As the Worshipful Master, I will do my best to build onto the foundation of Cincinnati Lodge #3. To all Past Masters of the Lodge, Officers and Brethren who have served throughout the years in various capacities, chairs and committees, I thank you for all the work you have done in making Cincinnati Lodge #3 the success it has been, so rich in history and may all of you have many more years of Masonic involvement now and in the future.

Cincinnati Lodge has been fortunate to have had such dynamic brethren throughout these years. I am deeply honored to have been associated and continue to work with the Pillars of the Lodge. Your never ending contributions have withstood the test of time and many traditions and programs are still a part of our Lodge activities today. Your Legacy Lives On...

To our Brethren who are no longer with us—you are in our thoughts and your spirits remain within our great Craft. May the Supreme Architect of the Universe be with you always.

It was more than five years ago that I knocked on the door of Freemasonry. I thank WB Todd Tubby for bringing me to see the light of Freemasonry. To WB Drew Jardine, I truly respect you as my Masonic Mentor, and hope I can, in a small way, follow the great example you have set in Masonry.

I am very thankful for the good men who have agreed to serve our Lodge and the Fraternity with me this year. To my Wardens, Appointed Officers and Committee Members, I look forward to working with you. Brethren, let us fulfill and execute our duties if within the length of our cabletow and enjoy your Masonry and have fun.

We have embraced and relished the Masonic education we have acquired, the knowledge in the Craft we have earned and the proficiency in the rituals that we have learned by heart thus far. Our Masonic work has always been focused around the three Principal Tenets of Freemasonry which are Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth while embodying the important qualities of Freemasonry which are faith, hope and charity, belief in God, the equality of all people, and the ability of each person to improve. This driving force has shown through in all the accomplishments our great Lodge has attained. According to Benjamin Franklin, "Masonic work is purely a labor of love. The wages of a Mason are earned and paid in their dealings with one another; sympathy begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, these are the wages of a Mason."

As I start my leadership of Cincinnati Lodge #3, I thank all the Brethren for this trust and confidence as I assure you that I will do my level best to steer our Lodge to greater heights of achievements.

Masonry speaks of making good men better. It is very clear that this means self-improvement, or becoming an individual who is more knowledgeable in life, more able to subdue his passions, and more useful to the society where he resides. This we strive to achieve by our own desire, by virtuous Masonic education and by our faithful reliance upon the Great Architect of the Universe.

My term of office as the incumbent Worshipful Master of Cincinnati Lodge #3, therefore, will be marked by endeavoring to make good Masons better. Our journey through Masonry is a continuous education. From the time we knocked on the door of the Preparation Room, to our raising as Master Masons, we were lectured on various Masonic doctrines and principles.

We were also required to demonstrate and prove our proficiency in the preceding degrees. However, beyond our proficiency in the rituals, it is necessary that we understand what the rituals mean, and accept them as our newly found values.

We will therefore undertake and embark upon three major initiatives: focused Masonic education, cooperative Community service, and effective Lodge management.

We will enhance our knowledge in Freemasonry through a well-crafted Masonic education program. We will re-strengthen and reinvigorate our proficiency in the rituals through active involvement and constant practice. We will proactively participate in the Community through well-organized and well-supported outreach programs.

We will collaborate and support well-organized fundraising projects that will improve our capacity to alleviate the needs of the Community and those of our worthy Brothers in need of relief. Above all, we will ensure that harmony will prevail over the Lodge through brotherly love and understanding. Peace and Harmony being the support of all Institutions especially this of Ours.

On top of all this work in the Craft, let us not lose sight of our working tools in Freemasonry, where we are taught to make use of for more noble and glorious purposes. What is distinctly significant is the 24-inch gauge, which teaches us balance, prioritization and time management. Being divided into 24 equal parts, it teaches us to divide our day into 3 equal parts, whereby we find time for service to God and a distressed worthy brother or the community, time for our usual vocation or our work in the office, and time for refreshment and repose for our family.

As assured to us by the Worshipful Master before we recite our obligation to the Craft—it will not interfere with our duties to God, our country, our neighbor or ourselves. Ourselves in this case includes our family.

As your newly installed Worshipful Master, let me again thank you all for this opportunity to preside and serve, an opportunity that is rarely given in our Masonic career, an opportunity that is sought after but rarely entrusted. With God Almighty as my witness, with your support and cooperation, I am ready. Ready to keep the Masonic Light Shining. Thank you, and God bless us all.

Brotherly,

Phil Caliolio
Worshipful Master