



Grace upon Grace

ROGATION

Dear Friends,

I extend a warm welcome to all the Masons at worship with us today. Also to their family members who support their activities. In our church calendar we celebrate both the Sixth Sunday of Easter and Rogation. Rogation is a specific time set aside before Ascension to petition God for preparation and planting for the upcoming farming season. Rogation is from the Latin word ‘rogare’, which means “to ask”. In this last week I have had the privilege of driving around our rural landscape. I find the fields amazing. I love seeing the large swatches of land, some already ploughed and other lying in wait. I don’t even mind the occasional whiff of spring fertilizer. I know that it is short lived and a necessary preparation for what is to follow. The fields, barns, tractors and other equipment look eager to begin their spring work. I see a sense of order, purpose and optimism at work. And yet we know that abundant living must have other dimensions in addition to meaningful and purposeful work. Our experience teaches us that we are very social beings and we need models to help us relate to one another in ways that enhance our lives. Fraternities like Freemasonry seek to help its members to become better by incorporating a body of knowledge and ethics which include devotion to family, faith, country and fraternity. Today’s Gospel message is about order and purpose. Jesus command to love resounds in this text but also so does his promise to provide help. We know instinctively that we need a purpose in life that is larger than ourselves and one in which we need divine inspiration. We need order in our lives and we give thanks to the orders that help in this journey of meaningful and productive living. We give thanks for the farmers that till the earth to nourish our bodies, for fraternities and other orders that gather people together for betterment, for churches that fulfill Christ’s mandate to serve. May God guide and bless our efforts to fulfill our missions.

In the love of our Lord Jesus,
Wayne