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# DEMOLAY

## FLORIDA

### From your Executive Officer COVID-19 UPDATE - April 22, 2020

Dear Florida DeMolay family,

Again, I greet you in the hopes that you are following the recommended safety and quarantine instructions, and I pray that you and yours are staying well, distancing yourself from others and minimizing your risk of exposure to COVID-19.

The members of our Executive Staff and I have had the extreme pleasure to "meet" (virtually) with several Chapters since all this began – individually and collectively. I continue to be wowed by the unfaltering dedication our DeMolay members and Advisors show to our beloved Order of DeMolay. Each of you are truly awesome.

Many DeMolay entities have also begun to host regular sessions related to DeMolay education. For example, DeMolay International hosts a "Way Back Wednesday" each Wednesday evening at 8:45 pm (Eastern), and Florida's own JBU Program hosts a Thursday JBU session each Thursday evening at 7:30 pm (Eastern). You are highly encouraged to participate as you are able.

I am pleased to report that South Miami Chapter has been declared as reactivated, with a new Advisory Council appointed. We're in the process of transitioning the administrative processes to the new Advisors, and we will begin working toward membership recruitment as soon as we are able.

We continue to review and interpret the restrictions and limitations imposed on us by national, state and local government. As you know, we have a gubernatorial stay-at-home order through the end of April, which allows movement for essential activities and also for specific purposes, such as for physical fitness. Additionally, our Grand Master of Masons has ordered a moratorium on in-person meetings through May 4th. We will continue to update as necessary, based on the intel we receive from the governing agencies.

In response to our time apart, I am prompted to offer some updates to the FL DeMolay program, consistent with these mandates in hopes that Chapter leaders will be able to make adequate changes to the upcoming months of the term:

1) While Chapter Master Councilors are encouraged to do what they can to maximize normalcy during this period of quarantine, thinking of new and innovative ways to meet the benchmarks of the current term, **all PMC-MSA requirements regarding fund-raisers are hereby waived for Florida Chapters (for this term only)**. With heightened levels of unemployment and the current economic crisis, it is unreasonable and irresponsible to require our Chapters to solicit funds – especially when most Chapters are not spending money for operations.

2) We may also have to consider alternative goals for our Chapters to achieve with regard to membership recruitment, but for the time being all membership requirements are still in place. In previous communications, I have directed that prospective members may be invited to Chapter stated (virtual) and social meetings, so long as no DeMolay ritualistic ceremonies or secrets are communicated. We are still prohibited by DeMolay Grand Master, Dad John Whitaker, from conducting any of the initiation rites, either full or short form, virtually. It is my hope that prospects will remain involved, and we can conduct their initiation/obligation ceremonies as soon as we can meet together again.

3) Dad Whitaker has, however, authorized Chapters to utilize the Opening and Closing ritualistic ceremonies by virtual means. I relay Dad Whitaker's approval, leaving it to the individual Chapters' discretion, but advise that many of the virtual platforms being used by local Chapters have time limits; I would rather the business of the Chapter be thorough and uninterrupted, than have the efficiency and effectiveness of these discussions be minimized by the inclusion of ritualistic ceremony. Again, I am prompted to share (and recommend) the virtual stated meeting agendas developed by our Executive Staff, which employs only the ritualistic prayers.

4) Chapter leaders are reminded of the importance of rewarding DeMolay activity during the coming weeks. I have included a PDF document of the Merit Bar requirements adopted by DeMolay International for your reference.

**During our gubernatorially mandated period of quarantine, the requirement for the Athletics Merit Bar within the Jurisdiction of Florida is hereby amended to read as follows:**

**A. Athletics – For participating in a Chapter or Manor's athletic program. The Master Councilor shall set a weekly goal for the DeMolays' athletic performance, subject to the approval of the Advisory Council. With a maximum of three, each time a qualifying DeMolay or Squire meets the established goal each week, it shall count for one of the six game competitions originally prescribed in the Appendix of the Bylaws, Rules & Regulations of DeMolay International.**

*As an example, the Master Councilor may challenge the members of his Chapter to complete a 5K every week, either by walking, running, skating, biking, etc. Meeting this challenge over the course of each week may serve as one of the six "game competitions," as required in the Appendix of the Bylaws, Rules & Regulations. Should a DeMolay be overzealous, and exceed the goal, each time the goal is accomplished will count as one of the six "game competitions," with a maximum of three per week. (I.e.: If the Master Councilor sets the challenge to complete a 5K each week, DeMolays who walk 10 miles that week would meet half of the qualification for his next Athletics Merit Bar).*

Consistent with the Merit Bar qualifications as outlined in the Bylaws, Rules & Regulations, and by adding my approval for virtual participation for Chapter meetings and events and these other directives, I welcome and anticipate an increase in Merit Bar awards, **particularly in the following categories: Correspondence Course, Athletics, Visitation, Civic Service, Masonic Attendance, Religion, Ritual, Scholastics, and Technology.**

To each of you, I ask that you please be mindful of our civic responsibility to heed all warnings and limitations imposed upon us. We will come out of this a stronger, more unified society, and I sincerely thank you for all you continue to do to promote our Order and its mission.

Fraternally yours,



Dad R. Jordan "Jody" Meguiar  
Executive Officer for the Jurisdiction of Florida  
Active Member of the International Supreme Council

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