

**The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of
Ancient Free and Accepted Masons
of the State of Illinois**

**Right Worshipful Brother Herbert Lindberg — Area Deputy Grand Master
Northeastern Area**

"The Humanity of Being Brothers"

Brethren:

One of the truly special experiences that we enjoy as Masons is becoming friends with men who we would otherwise never meet. Through our great fraternity, we spend time with men of different backgrounds, perspectives and ways of living. Because we are "on the level," we have a foundation by which to just talk. In these conversations, we help each other grow, learn, and expand our thinking. It doesn't matter if we have a 50 year age difference or don't look like one another, we see the humanity in each other. **We cherish the connection with these other good men who we have the privilege to call Brothers. That's it!**

Through the promises we make as Masons, we welcome the opportunity to be useful to our Brothers and their families. We take that duty seriously, and see it as an important tie that binds us together. **Seeing the humanity in each other is an important part of our Masonic life.** From that view, we commit to helping one another and wishing each other well in all of our positive activities. We want to help, try to understand, and see the problems and challenges of others so our love, as fellow travelers, can make a difference to those in need. That love and recognition of our humanity comes in many forms. It is just being there to listen, sharing a hearty laugh or just showing that we care about a person's wellbeing.

The Brotherly Love that we learn and share as Masons should extend to our family members (including widows), friends and neighbors. **It is through our collective strength that we can shoulder the weight of others who need to lean on us.** In times like these in which so much uncertainty exists in our daily lives and activities that we value are disrupted, our fraternity has an opportunity to let our Light shine brightly. Some of our Brethren, family members, friends and neighbors are feeling like they are living in a pretty dark place. Think about the hope and peace-of-mind that just adding a little Light in their lives could mean. As Masons, we see their humanity and can promote how our families and communities will get through this period together.

How? By creating your personal or Lodge "Buddy System." We did this as kids, by holding hands, to make sure on field trips that our classmates made it across the street and down the block safely. Well, that same approach can get us through this current journey together. Pick a buddy (a Brother, friend, neighbor, etc. who you are really concerned about), get his or her phone number or email address, and make a commitment every day to make contact. A simple txt message exchange, call or email to check in works well. Make sure they are doing well, staying healthy or if they need anything. Don't forget about Brethren who are located out of state. Oh, if you don't know what to tell them, then I've got you covered — **"You are not alone, and I care about you!"** You can really uplift someone's day with your contact and shine a bit of Light into their lives. If you find out that help is needed, then reach out to our Illinois Masonic Charities, IMOS (Illinois Masonic Outreach Services Program) and IMCAP (Illinois Masonic Children's Assistance Program).

A few final thoughts. **As we head into the major holidays, I am thankful for you and our fraternity.** The knowledge of what we do, who we are, and how we unselfishly help others, reinforces my faith in the power of humanity. I welcome you to do the same. Please stay safe and healthy, and enjoy the holidays (even though they will feel a bit different this year).

Faternally,

Herb