

## **CHAPLAIN'S REPORT (2021-2022)**

The Grange year 2021-2022 looked more promising than the previous one. Granges throughout the country and ones here in the state of Maine slowly opened up with members cautiously returning to their respective meetings, and starting to work promoting the order again! God is good and loving.

The Covid-19 pandemic caused a lot of grief and anxiety to many of our members. Through the love of God and His overall guidance, we got through it somewhat unscathed. Many didn't, but those who did witnessed the Holy Spirit first hand! (II Corinthians 1:3 states, "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort.").

As the Pomona Granges have started meeting on a regular basis again, I have visited two this year. On June 7, 2022, I had the privilege and honor to meet with Washington Pomona at Alexander Grange. We had a very productive meeting. I hope that my being there provided some comfort to the members that the State Grange knows that Washington Pomona exists and we are here for them in the long run. On June 28, 2022, I, also, had the privilege and honor to meet with Somerset Pomona at East Madison Grange. This, too, was a very productive meeting. I would like to thank both Pomonas and the members for a very delightful time that I will not forget. I hope to get back to visit with all of you again real soon.

The past year was not without sadness in our ranks. Early on, we lost Brother William Hatch, former Deputy Master of Androscoggin Pomona, Brother Richard Burke, former Deputy Master of York Pomona, and Brother Roger Shorty, Deputy Master of Somerset Pomona.

For State officers, I am sad to report that Sister Dorothy "Dot" Shores, former Flora of the Maine State Grange, and Lady Assistant Steward of the National Grange; Sister Dorothy "Dot" Brown, former lecturer, and Treasurer of the Maine State Grange; and Brother Wayne Sherman, Former Chaplain of the Maine State Grange left this mortal life to enter into the Heavenly kingdom of the Father.

All of these people, Deputies, Officers, members, relatives, good friends, will be missed very much. We will miss their leadership and kindness. May God bless them and keep them in His house forever.

The past year (2021-2022), I have submitted a column [The Deacon's Bench] each month to the website which I hope fellow grangers enjoyed. I hope this past year has been kind to you and you continue to grow your Grange and, especially your faith in God the Father. Until we meet in person may God bless and keep you forever, and "May the luck of the Irish lead to happiest heights, and the highway you travel be lined with green lights".

Respectfully Submitted,

Clay Collins, Chaplain Maine State Grange