



Sixth District Annual Meeting Sunday, March 22, 2026 Lecture - Communication Flourishes Our Order

Communication determines whether our Order merely survives... or truly blossoms.

Our Order is very much like a flower. No flower blooms the day the seed is planted.

First, there must be fertile soil. In our Order, that soil is trust. Trust is cultivated through consistent, honest communication. When members feel informed, respected, and heard, the foundation becomes rich and capable of sustaining growth.

Next, comes the seed itself. The seed is our shared vision; why we gather, why we serve, why we commit our time and talents. But even the strongest seed cannot grow in silence. It requires water. Communication is that water. It nourishes ideas. It clarifies expectations and it prevents misunderstanding from drying out enthusiasm.

When communication is absent, assumptions take root. Unlike flowers, these unchecked growths spread quickly and choke what might otherwise blossom. Scripture presents speech as something capable of nurturing life in much the same way that sunlight and water nourish a flower.

In the Book of Proverbs 16:24, gracious words are described as “sweet to the soul and healing to the bones,” suggesting that thoughtful, truthful communication cultivates well-being and relational growth. Likewise, the Book of Psalms often employs images of flourishing plants, flowers, and trees to portray lives sustained by divine care. Together, these biblical themes suggest that words, when spoken with clarity and grace, can tend the garden of human relationships, allowing trust and understanding to blossom rather than be choked out by the weeds of assumption.

As the flower begins to sprout, it must push through the soil. Growth requires effort. Likewise, healthy communication requires courage. It means addressing concerns directly, speaking truth with kindness, and listening with the intent to understand not merely to respond. In our Order our strength has always been disciplined ritualistic dialogue filled with respect, structure, purpose.

A flower also needs sunlight. Sunlight represents transparency. When leadership communicates clearly about plans, finances, goals, and challenges, the Order stands in the light. Nothing is hidden in the shadows. Transparency builds confidence. Confidence strengthens unity. Unity fuels progress.

But here is the most important comparison: a flower does not bloom for itself. It blooms to add beauty, to contribute to its environment, to serve a greater ecosystem. In the same way, our chapters should not exist for titles, positions, or personal recognition. We exist to serve our communities, our families, and one another.

When communication flows properly:

- ❖ Members feel valued.
- ❖ New ideas are welcomed.
- ❖ Conflicts are resolved before feelings get trampled on.
- ❖ New members feel included.

- ❖ Seasoned members feel respected.
- ❖ The Order moves in harmony rather than confusion.

And just like a garden, blossoming is continuous. It is not a one-time occurrence. It requires consistent attention. Meetings should not be routine recitations alone; there should be exchanges of energy and information. Committees should not operate in isolation; they should report, collaborate, and invite participation.

Positive does not mean passive. Assertive does not mean aggressive. Effective communication sits in the balance clear, direct, respectful, and timely.

If we want our Order to blossom:

- ❖ We must speak with purpose.
- ❖ We must listen with patience.
- ❖ We must correct with compassion.
- ❖ We must lead with clarity.

When we do this, our chapters will not simply function, they will flourish. Our membership will not simply exist, it will engage. And our light will not flicker; it will radiate and SHINE!

Let us commit to being the gardeners of our Order planting carefully, watering consistently, pruning wisely, and celebrating every bloom, because when communication is healthy, growth is inevitable.

Fraternally,

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Grand Assistant Lecturer

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