

## THE NORTHEAST CORNER

One thing you should be expecting from me as your Chief Adept is a clear understanding of my expectations for our College. Those who formed the core of the organization, especially our Celebrant and Secretary, are well aware of my desires and vision. In reflecting on what to present in this message, I realized that I have not adequately shared that information, especially with our newer Fratres. I will try to do that now within the context of what Masonic Rosicrucianism is and is not.

First, let me start with what I gave the core Fratres as guidelines for Charter Member consideration, that is, those who were to be made members of SRICF “at sight” by the Supreme Magus in May of 2009. I directed them to present names of Masons who had unique qualities, who could contribute something few others could. I wanted diversity so the College could draw on whatever talents they had if it was needed. I specifically told them not to consider membership in other Masonic organizations as a primary determining factor. As a result, we can draw on the talents of a man of God and a musician to provide serenity when we need it. We have accomplished ritualists who can enrich the beautiful learning experiences of our work. We have past and active Grand Lodge members who can keep us in touch with our Masonic roots, and computer wizards who can keep us in touch with the world. We have Masonic researchers who can teach us about our Masonic heritage, and theosophical researchers who can teach us about the Kabbalah and other religious philosophies. We have Scottish Rite Masons, York Rite Masons, Blue Lodge Masons and those that are significant combinations of all of them. We are young and old Masonically and chronologically, but we all have one thing in common – a thirst for knowledge based on a firm Christian belief system and an uncommon devotion to the Craft. That, my Fratres, is what I did and continue to strive for.

Having said all the above, let me now share with you my concept of New Hampshire College’s future course. Slow growth is an absolute necessity!! I have seen other organizations struggle and fail because their growth was such that they were never able to establish a firm identity. Without an identity, chaos can quickly take over, even in groups with the best of intents. We need to make sure we firmly established our identity before we lose that opportunity. By both regulation and tradition, each College can consist of 72 Fratres. During my term as Chief Adept, I do not expect to see our membership being over 36, and I anticipate that figure to be reached over a period of time, not immediately. Let me explain why I feel this way.

Currently, the total membership in SRICF is approximately 2000 Fratres. That is not because of lack of interest or having reached a ceiling limit. This Society is “invitation only” because not every Mason is right for the Society – even those who have been or are highly active in other Masonic organizations. This is not a body established as a “reward” for Masonic activity, even though unfortunately it has become that in some jurisdictions. I specifically excluded Masonic involvement as a primary consideration when presenting a proposal for membership for that very reason. Before proposing someone as an Aspirant for our Society, honestly ask yourself “Why” and “What”. Why do you think he is appropriate and what does he have to offer. If your answer is that he has demonstrated a driving thirst for knowledge, growth and self-improvement based firmly on a Christian belief system and is willing to share his knowledge with others, you probably have a

winner, since the sharing is his “what”. The thirst for knowledge does not have to be demonstrated by writing papers or doing massive amounts of research. Both are admirable qualities, but not everyone has the ability, capacity or time. As a Rosicrucian, you will recognize that thirst for knowledge when you see it. If your answer to the questions does not fit into that mold, please consider that every Frater is an important link in the chain of the Society, and each link has to support its own part of our work.

I look forward to being with each of you in the comfort of our Society. May our Heavenly Father watch over each of you and your families always.

Yours in the Mxxxxx Cxxxxx,

**Richard F. Cole, Jr. IX°**

Chief Adept

Absque bonitate ego nihili habeo