

CT Chief Adept Message: “INTRO-SPECTION”

My Dear Fratres Wheresover Dispersed,

Welcome to our yearly offering of news from CT College. What follows is a summary of my report to my CT Fratres of our condition and past events concluding our 2017-2018 year together. As I hope you will see, I have relied on applying that which we seek to the inner needs of the College and by doing so, each of our CT Frates. There is no magic here, and any or all are welcome to benefit as they choose, or not.

If I had to categorize this last year, I would probably file it under “Introspection”. After some internal, inward looking examination, I believe we (in CT) MAY have turned a new corner, and if not, just enough to peek around to the other side.

Looking at my annual reports the last few years, it seemed we were trending, not up or down, but flat and though we had discussed some ways to jog our excitement level in our college, ideas and new activities just weren’t happening. I felt I was becoming complacent, being satisfied to report what could or should have been versus what can or should be, given the right formula. And maybe, I was alone in these observations.

So in the fall I designed a survey to see where my Fratres stood on various topics, capture your sentiments, and see how they compared to mine. We shared its results in November which were revealing from a number of standpoints and in some cases, spot on to what I was thinking and feeling, and in some cases, not so much.

Though not a scientifically pure opinion poll by any means, the survey did reveal that our College was made up of three types of Fratres: those whose Masonic interest were so demanding and varied, that SRICF was NOT at the top of their list of “go to” places; a third were at the other end – younger Fratres “Hoovering” up what they could, and not yet fully overloaded with Masonry. And then there was a middle ground. I took this to be a sign...that if we can reach the middle, we wont lose them to bigger interests, and in doing so cement the younger third. Maybe the veteran third will come back, but they were not my target group as they had been. Mission: Make SRICF My “GO TO” Place for Masonic Knowledge and Inspiration.

So, I rolled up my sleeves and we looked to February to begin work on a few of the more common, short range ideas, which produced some positive results right from the git go.

1. Having been meeting jointly with AMD, we started down the path to clarify our identify separate from AMD, a majority opinion. Our February meeting provided a perfect first opportunity: we met in the am, followed by an AMD-at-the-table lunch format, affording us a test of our separability. For our annual we flip a bit – AMD goes first, we do our Collation at lunch and then close off the afternoon with our business.. Both gatherings were well received by the Fratres and we will continue to

achieve this when we can, even gathering in venues apart from AMD from time to time.

2. Our ritual work was stagnant with little education or involvement beyond the Celebrant and Exponent. So we had a focused team led by our newer Fratres do the work on Zelator for their benefit as well, and for our two newest Fratres, Ed Varjabedian and Mike Sabia. The timing was perfect, as the Candidates had just cleared their vetting and the team had plenty of notice to prep.
3. Sentiment was crying out for more discussion of things about and related to Rosicrucians. Assigning our resident, in-house librarian and researcher (Martin Ede), we began to organize and coalesce topics and reading materials. We hope to arm all our Fratres with the basics, like the SRICF Study Guide, and set aside time each meeting for a “topic du jour” as it were: Tree of Life and Alchemy top the list. We have homework to do over the summer and our first meeting this fall looks to be very educational.
4. Our Celebrant and self proclaimed Professore di Papyrie stepped up his coaching of the IV’s with their papers to get them more akin to Rosicrucianism than broader topics heretofore presented.
5. And in addition to the mere gathering and redistribution of dues, a “budget” that we may derive have some financial goals. Paying the bills has been hard, but we can use some extra cash for projects. To this end, several Fratres have already stepped up with some timely donations of long sought after materials.

Though I am greatly enthused by this heightened level of activity and participation, I cannot scientifically determine the Fratres in the middle by name, as my survey was done in an anonymous manner. But logic would say that these who are now coming more regularly and making an effort when given Masonic choices, are indeed the chosen ones to keep CT SRICF on this path.

In Closing.....

So in the final analysis, this last year was more about “introspection” by our Fratres than mine. These and other practical needs and initiatives, were drawn from their interests expressed by them and their Brother Fratres. Taken together, they indicated a new pathway forward in concert, and by doing so, dispel a growing perception that CT SRICF is a “clique” and more importantly, setting CT SRICF to be a “destination refuge for insight and comfort for every member”. And ultimately, given all our distractions and no matter how diverse our other Masonic obligations, advanced titles and responsibilities, SRICF is a place they would rather be when given a clear choice. We are NOT the ones “under a bushel” but on that stool giving light to all in the house.

In closing, my Fratres of the Rose and Cross, you are invited to do your own personal “introspection” that all your works may be acceptable in His sight, not confined to

Masonry, but across your daily lives ,granted us only by the Grace of our Blessed Lord and Saviour. Thank you, and until next time,

Amen. Amen

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William L. Miller, IX". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "W".

Fr. William L. Miller, IX
Chief Adept, CT College
"Ad Astra per Aspera"