

## **Peering Forward & Learning from the Past**

Mount Zion Lodge No. 39 – December 27, 2011

The time of Installation and Investiture is of course the time when the new officers elect take charge of the Masonic Lodge for the coming year. What a wonderful time to reflect on the past and look forward and plan for the future.

Let's for a few minutes pretend that we have the ability and skill of the famous Roman god Janus.

Janus was one of the most important gods of the Roman Empire. This god was so revered that the first month of the year, January was named after him. His image was commonly engraved over the gateways to cities through which the Roman Armies would travel on their way to war.

Janus was usually depicted as having 2 heads with beards. The one head had the ability to look back and recall with great accuracy what had happened in the distant past, all the way back to the concrete and abstract beginnings of the world. The other head had the ability to look forward and predict the future. He was therefore recognized as the god of time and new beginnings.

He was frequently used to symbolize change and transitions. Janus was worshipped at the beginning of the harvest, at planting time, at marriages, at births and other beginnings.

So here we are on December 27, 2011 celebrating the feast of Saint John, the Apostle and Evangelist. Our ancient brethren would have known for 2 days now that the days were in fact lengthening and summer would return. We, like they look forward to the New Year and new beginnings.

It is also the traditional annual date for the Installation and Investiture of this lodge. The outgoing Master can now look back with pride as to what has been accomplished in his year as the Worshipful Master of this lodge. However the real judge and jury of whether it was a good year or not is of course the individual members of this lodge.

The Master Elect, has been for some time now, acting as the other head of the Roman god Janus peering into the future. He has been planning, strategizing, memorizing the work and hoping that the next Masonic year will in fact be a special one. I know that he would like to leave a very special mark in the history of this lodge. As we recall the ability of the Roman god Janus, we know that only time will tell what the next Masonic Year will hold for the Master Elect.

We as mortal humans may not have the ability of the Roman god Janus to accurately look into the future, however, as a leader in Mount Zion Lodge it is important to look ahead and plan for your year. And now to remind you, of the importance of looking into the future let me present you with the 8<sup>th</sup> set of the Worshipful Master's working tools which is a set of binoculars to assist you in looking ahead for any obstacles that could interfere with you having a great year.

I extend to you Worshipful Master Elect, best wishes for a most successful year and if there is anything that I can do to assist you with your year please contact me at your convenience and I will be very pleased to do whatever I can, to be of assistance.

R. W. Bro. Douglas E. Galt

DDGM Ontario District