Welcome to a new year that gives us the distinct pleasure of celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Delaware. The Masons of this Grand Jurisdiction stand proud with this accomplishment.

This is truly a great year for my theme, “Pride”. (Professional Results in Daily Effort). However, I would like to replace the word “Professional” with the word “Personal”. Each Mason in Delaware makes a personal sacrifice to this fraternity and does it with pride. The general public does not always relate all the bodies of our gentle Craft as one. We are trying to change that so we may be recognized as one. We must never forget where we started in Freemasonry.

The Grand Staff Installation Ceremony was afforded the pleasure of having the DeMolay and Jobies participate in our installation. These young people are a big part of our Masonic future. Following installation, the Grand Staff enjoyed several official Grand Visitations within the State of Delaware and other jurisdictions.

Highfield, the Masonic Home, is the only philanthropy that Ruth and I would like to concentrate on this year. If you have not yet visited Highfield, please do so during this bicentennial year. You will be impressed with the care the residents receive from the employees and associates of Highfield, who function as a very dedicated team. Should you wish to visit Highfield and are in need of transportation, a program has been developed this year for any Mason or family member who may be considering Highfield as a retirement home and would like a tour. You may call Troy Nuss at (302) 994-4434 and arrangements will be made to provide you with transportation to the home.

My Brethren, we should all give as liberally as our means permit. In our teachings, we learn about Jacob’s ladder and the three principle supports – Faith, Hope and Charity. Of these three, CHARITY is the greatest. Please remember the Masonic Mason jar that will be available during all Grand Visits. If every Mason donates fifty cents a week to the jar, at the end of the year there would be twenty-six dollars donated by every Mason to Highfield. Actually, that is less than you would spend for a cup of coffee or soda in a week. These numbers are only as great as the participation of ALL MASONS in Delaware.

It is a great honor for me to serve this Grand Lodge as Grand Master for this bicentennial year. It’s going to be an exciting year of activities and fun. There are many things to be done and I look forward to completing all of them to the best of my ability and with the support of God and the Brethren of Delaware.