

September 18, 2026 #168

Dear Brethren and Friends,

Special Announcements:

Sept 22 (Tuesday) - This will be the Past Masters Dinner with ritual competition to follow. Dinner at 6 pm. All PM's are welcome.

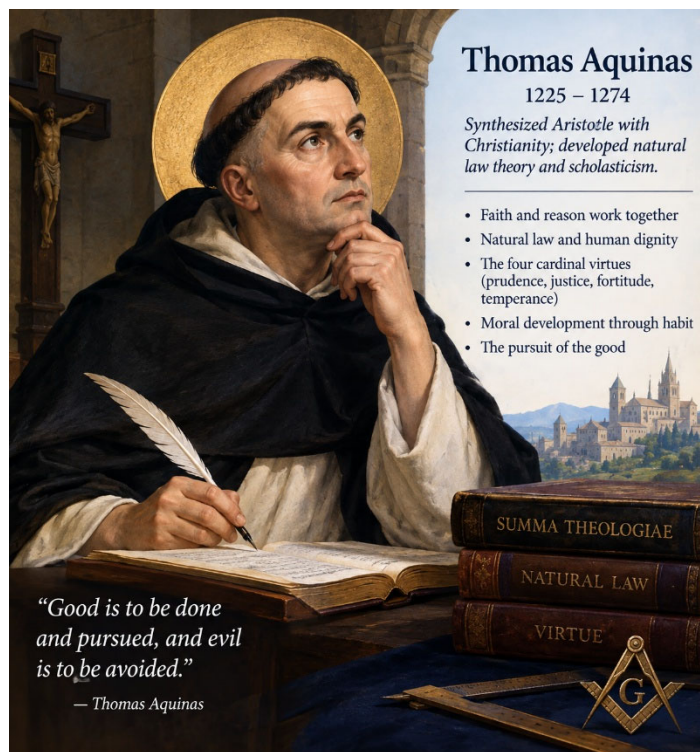
Sept 29 (Tuesday) - 5th Tuesday Dinner. Family Movie Night. A family-friendly movie after dinner. Lodge will supply meat for the meal. And if we talk really nice to Richard and Roger, maybe they will make popcorn.

Saying of the Week

The meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances: if there is any reaction, both are transformed. - Carl Gustav Jung

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Five Ways to God



Our next philosopher is Thomas Aquinas. He was a Christian Philosopher who lived from 1225 to 1274. His greatest impact was showing that faith and reason are not enemies.

His position was that human reason, properly used, can discover important truths about morality, human nature, and the existence of God. The central idea was "Reason can discover truths about the world and human nature; revelation can provide truths that reason alone cannot discover".

He used Aristotle's philosophy and integrated them into a Christian worldview.

Over eight million words from his work have survived. His two most important works were:

Summa Theologiae – his enormous systematic treatment of Christian theology, morality, human nature, and God.

Summa contra Gentiles – an extensive defense and explanation of Christian belief using philosophical reasoning.

His most famous arguments concerning God's existence are "The Five Ways to God".

1. Change – things change because something causes the change.
2. Causation – things have causes.
3. Contingency – things exist but don't have to exist.
4. Degrees of perfection – things can be described as more or less good, true, noble, etc.
5. Order/design – natural things act in orderly ways toward ends.

He defined seven fundamental human "goods":

- Preserving human life
- Forming families
- Raising and educating children
- Seeking truth
- Living peacefully with others
- Developing moral and intellectual virtues
- Ultimately seeking genuine happiness

Looking at how Freemasonry might intersect with his teachings, we can see very similar concepts.

1. Reason should guide moral behavior: For Aquinas, human beings have the capacity to use reason to distinguish good from evil. He regarded natural law as the participation of rational human beings in God's eternal law.
2. Virtue is something to be developed. Aquinas didn't view morality simply as knowing a list of rules. Virtue is developed through habits and practice. Prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude were particularly important.
3. There are four cardinal virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. (You might recognize these words from some of the degrees)
4. The good should be pursued: for Aquinas, this isn't merely an instruction from an external authority. It is something human reason can recognize as fundamental to moral life.
5. Building the "better man": Aquinas believed that human beings have a proper purpose or end, and that moral development consists partly in ordering one's life toward that good.
6. The important difference: His natural-law philosophy ultimately rests upon God, creation, divine providence, and humanity's ultimate relationship with God.

I'll leave you with one of his famous quotes: "A man becomes better not merely by knowing what is good, but by ordering his life toward the good and practicing virtue."

Lord, allow us to become better by recognizing good in the world. In His name I pray. Amen.

Lodge Calendar

Sept 22 (Tuesday) - This will be the Past Masters Dinner with ritual competition to follow. Dinner at 6 pm. All PM's are welcome.

Sept 29 (Tuesday) - 5th Tuesday Dinner. Family Movie Night. A family-friendly movie after dinner. Lodge will supply meat for the meal. And if we talk nicely to Richard and Roger, maybe they will make popcorn.

Oct 6 (Tuesday) - Stated Communication. Dinner at 6 pm. Lodge at 7 pm.

Oct 13 (Tuesday) - Fellowship with dinner at 6 pm.

October 15 (Thursday) - District 12 meeting at Tulsa Lodge #71 located at 5925 E 9th St, Tulsa, OK 74112. Dinner at 6 pm with meeting to follow at 7 pm.

Oct 20 (Tuesday) - Stated Communication. Dinner at 6 pm. Lodge at 7 pm.

Oct 27 (Tuesday) - Fellowship with dinner at 6 pm.

Oct 31 (Saturday) - Broken Arrow Spooktacular - 5 pm to 9 pm. The lodge will be handing out candy and popcorn. We need lots of volunteers to help. The popcorn will be made at the lodge beginning mid-afternoon. Wear your favorite costume if you like and bring your family!

Dec 1 (Tuesday) - Lodge election night and Stated Meeting. Dinner at 6 pm, Lodge at 7 pm.

Dec 6 (Sunday) - Officer Installation. 2 pm light refreshments to follow.

Dec 29 (Tuesday) - 5th Tuesday Dinner

See you at Lodge!

Sincerely,

W.: Scott A. MacDonald, Treasurer and Membership Calling Chairman

September 11, 2026 #167

Dear Brethren and Friends,

Today marks the 25th anniversary of the attack on the US by Islamic jihadist ideology or what we call 9-11. It seems some have forgotten about this attack. Let's hope we remember for the sake of future generations. Keep the families of the victims in your prayers.

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Saying of the Week

"Something I noticed about resilient people: They don't have fewer problems. They have faster reset times.

Bad news hits at 9 am. By 10 am, they're back to their priorities. They feel it, process it, and move. The speed of the reset matters more than the size of the setback." - Jaelen Kim

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Stop the Sabotage!



Augustine of Hippo 354–430 CE

Augustine of Hippo was one of the most influential thinkers in the development of Western Christianity. He lived during the final centuries of the Roman Empire and became Bishop of Hippo in North Africa.

His importance is that he brought Christian theology into conversation with Greek philosophy – especially Platonism – and developed ideas about human nature, morality, free will, evil, and God's grace that shaped Christianity for centuries.

Augustine was born in 354 CE in Tagaste, North Africa, in what is now Algeria. His mother, Monica, was a Christian, but Augustine did not initially embrace Christianity.