

# DISCOURSE

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## “Masonic Charity?”

Dear Brothers:

Charity, our traditions and ritual teaches us about Faith, Hope and Charity and of these three Charity is the Greatest. Yes my Brethren this is taken from the New Testament, it is a quotation from I Corinthians 13:13 “And now abideth faith, hope and charity, these three, but the greatest of these is charity.”

Yes, my Brothers Charity must be a mark of distinction among man, more especially a Master Mason, our involvement in charitable deeds in our community is an obligation we must teach all our Brethren, for if we truly are endeavoring to make a better world for mankind, we must be charitable with those less fortunate than us.

As we have moved through several centuries, we have been blessed to have members in our Fraternity that promoted the virtues that elevate mankind, the likes of Liberty, Equality and Brotherhood. The ability to provide that atmosphere where man could flourish has created many more advances for humanity too many to single out.

Charity, my Brothers for that student with a scholarship, for those needy families during Thanksgiving, Christmas or other Holidays depending on your faith, for children that are starting school, for a neighbor's medical care is indeed noble, and we must continue to perform these acts of charity and kindness.

For too long a time we have practiced these random acts of kindness, and have adopted a policy of not letting the left hand know what the right hand gives. However, times have changed, public image plays a greater roll in our society, and we must adjust, in order to reach our fellowmen.

This my Brothers is where our Grand Lodge Flagship Charity can be our answer to our public image as a sponsor of the Masonic Medical Research Laboratories, whose studies deal with the number one killer in America and most industrialized nations; heart diseases.

My Brothers in order to achieve this, first we must pass legislation making our Flagship Charity as one of the Standing Committees in Grand Lodge just like we have done with Child ID, Masonic Education etc. This way there will be a committee appointed every year to work on behalf of the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory, fulfilling the will of the Brothers who had the foresight to name this great work for humanity our “Flagship Charity.”

Did you know that the name of your Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida has appeared in the New England Medical Journal as supporter of life savings studies that have emanated from the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory as well as in many other prestigious medical journals the world over.

Some of discoveries and contributions to mankind made by the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory\* include the following.

- Discovered 5 of the 7 genes associated with the Brugada syndrome an inherited sudden death syndrome that takes the lives of young men at the prime of their lives (40years of age)
- Discovered numerous mutations responsible for long QT syndrome, a life-threatening cardiac arrhythmia syndrome that first afflicts children in their teenage years
- Discovered 3of the 5 genes associated with short QT syndrome, an inherited sudden death syndrome that takes the lives of infants, children and young adults
- Discovered genetic defects in the sodium channel that predispose to sudden cardiac death during or after a heart attack
- Identified quinidine as a drug that can be used to prevent arrhythmic death caused by a number of sudden death syndromes

- Identified ranolazine (Ranexa) as a safe and effective drug for the management of atrial fibrillation (AF), one of the major causes of stroke in the United States. AF affects over 2.5 million Americans and its reaching epidemic proportions.
- Collaborates with leading pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies to identify drugs that may pose a danger to society and to facilitate FDA approval of new and effective drugs to treat heart disease
- Discovered the M cell, a unique sub-population of cells in the heart that revolutionized our understanding of the function of the heart in health and disease
- Uncovered the cellular basis for the J wave and T wave of the ECG, thus providing cardiologist a more accurate means of diagnosing and treating heart disease
- Provided knowledge essential for implementation and advancement of devices like the pacemaker, implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) and automatic external defibrillator (AED)

The list goes on and on with the new Stem Cell Center focused on regenerative medicine and development of human models of disease using an exciting new technology employing induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS), which precludes the need for use of embryos.

They have successfully converted skin cells from patients with sudden cardiac arrhythmia syndromes to generate induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells and then transform these cells into heart cells, thus generating human models of these life-threatening syndromes needed to develop new treatments and cures.

As you can see my Brothers, the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory is conducting innovative research into identifying mechanisms of disease with a focus n development of therapeutic interventions and cures. We are a part of this a very important partnership with the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory, because these studies lead to new discoveries and a better quality of life for all. The generous donations of many, of which yours plays a very important part help make this possible.

On a selfish side, it also has one other thing, which makes this Laboratory very special to me and hopefully you too. The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory carries the word “Masonic” in its name to all four corners of the world, touching the lives of millions of people across this world of ours. The MMRL is our gift to humanity, and our collective donations are changing the face of medicine.

My Brothers there is no secret here, their good work and research depends on the availability of financial support. Only through a strong and sustained investment in medical research will scientist have the capability to design better and more rational treatments and cures in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Remember the life their research may save may be that of your loved ones or your own. Masons are charitable in nature, please give as liberally as your ability permits.

Donate today to our very own “Campaign for life...Every heartbeat counts” it will be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully and Fraternaly Submitted, I remain your most humble servant

Jorge L. Aladro  
Senior Grand Warden

\*Some of the information use in this piece was taken from the MMRL brochure number GWC2/2010 titled “Are you aware that the MMRL...”

***If you would like to receive, these newsletters make request at email below if you would like to forward to your list of friends you have my permission and thank you in advance.***

*“My Brothers, the newsletters are intended to be thought provoking, to get you to think creatively, to get you thinking what if?, to dare you to improve yourself and your Lodge.”*

***Note: If you would, like to have any of these presentations made at your Lodge or District Associations feel free to call.***

***“Masons always rise to the occasion”***