

A Poor Substitution

I have found that adjutants are, I believe by nature, inquisitive creatures. Perhaps this inquisitive quality is further driven by our need to know in order to better serve. By virtue of our office, we are to be in a constant position to give the correct answer. What vestments do we wear when? Where do I line up in the procession? What is the origin of the zucchetto and why do bishops continue to wear it today? Where are we going to seat the 1st Ladies of the Fellowship? What is the significance of the chasuble? Who is serving the pulpit tonight? Is my cassock long enough? Are the fins on my biretta supposed to face left, front, and rear or is the blank space supposed to be square in the front? (Neither) What is the significance for the uses of oil and water during deliverance? I need to order a “what” to be properly vested for Fellowship gatherings? Why do we do things this way? ...Adjutant’s need to be prepared to give a multitude of correct answers.

So what do we do to stay informed? We talk amongst the leaders of the church. We commune with fellow adjutants of various backgrounds, we attend seminars and courses and we read books. This information gathering is admirable and encouraged, but these things are but an enhancement to the work of the Spirit. It cannot be expressed enough...if we do not carry the spirit of our leader and seek to operate in the Spirit (note the difference) then all of our knowledge is worthless. Yes, I said “less-than-worth.”

At the risk of flogging a dead horse, the spirit of what you do is far more important than determining what stream of succession from which a leader operates. I have been privy to much discussion recently on matters of church polity and vestments from prelates, laypersons and adjutants alike. After reflecting on these many conversations I was left with the frustrating question: where is talk of the Spirit? Please do not be mistaken, the need for sound knowledge in our vocation is of great import and a necessity; however this sought after knowledge is a poor and insufficient substitution for knowledge of the Spirit. The Apostle Paul understood this and talks to the church at Corinth concerning this very thing in the second chapter of 1 Corinthians. Adjutants, continue to seek furtherance in knowledge but please be careful you do not substitute this for the Spirit. Be encouraged to operate in demonstration of the Spirit and not man’s wisdom in all that you do for the Lord.