

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Seasons Greetings from the southern part of the state! I hope everyone is well and enjoying the festivities and camaraderie of the season.

The contributors to this web message board are writing and sending in their messages early so that the persons doing the actual work of arranging, scheduling and posting the messages might have a little respite during this season. So, as you read this Christmas is past. As the message is being written, Christmas is future. It appears that imagination will have to suffice for Christmas present!

Christmas future is a flurry of trying to come up with presents for family and friends. What would they like that they don't already have? What would mean the most to them? "Knowing all" would sure come in handy right now! What can be done to assist those less fortunate than ourselves? Questions and more questions!

Christmas present will be a congregation of family members that live close by. Hopefully, weather will permit us to enjoy company outside. Home cooked red enchiladas being the usual fare for celebrations with a seasonal addition of pecan and pumpkin pies and cookies galore! Then, a gift exchange, with the real gift being laughter, stories and the animated faces of the ones we love.

Christmas past will be the contentment of remembering of "Christmas present". Remembering the faces and voices of those we saw in person, over the phone or other technological marvels; remembering that we tried to make others lives better. Oh, and knowing that some of that pie and those cookies are still there!

The New Year is nearly here! More questions! What do we hope to accomplish this coming year? How are we going to handle problems confronting us? How are we going to make it? We will prevail. The answer lies in faith in God, hard work and keeping to the tenets of our Order, the Order of the Eastern Star.

Respectfully, your Brother

Robert "Bob" Bradshaw, GS

