

ONCE A CROW, ALWAYS A CROW (Part 3)

I lead a Monday night Bible study at church. Last night, we got to talking about “covenant” – the unbreakable promise made between God and humanity. We talked about how the Hebrew nation had been told and promised that circumcision was the physical sign of this covenant between God and humanity. We also talked about how Christian baptism became the new covenant for the followers of Jesus. In fact, someone in the class even compared the water that is applied to the forehead of the newly baptized to being similar to the act of circumcision. The former is a physical action that reminds the baptized that they are marked with the Cross of Christ forever, and the latter is the physical sign that the eight-day old child is part of a much larger community of believers, and will be forever.

What do we do in Alpha Chi Rho to remind our Brothers that initiation into our Fraternity is a lifelong Bond? One of the promises made to every Brother at initiation was that the Brother would have a lifetime subscription to the Garnet and White. Back when postal rates were less than they are today, and the cost of printing a magazine the quality of ours was much less expensive, that was an easy promise to fulfill. Over the past five years, both of those factors have changed, and we on the National Council fell down on our promise to the Brotherhood. We allowed ourselves to get out of touch with the very people who are the lifeblood of our Fraternity – the undergraduate Brothers and the Graduate Brothers. We could not afford to continue printing the magazine in the format of the past, but we learned that we could not afford to get as out of touch with Brothers as we did. Having a Garnet and White in hand was a physical sign of the Bond among Brothers.

How have we corrected that? As a fraternity for the 21st century, we have gone digital. We now make copies of the Fraternity magazine available on line. It saves on paper, it saves on postage and, best of all, it keeps us in touch with Brothers. The magazine is down-loadable, for those who prefer to have a physical document in their hands when they read. We are working hard with the technology available to us to live up to our promise to the Brotherhood, to try to restore that covenantal pledge to keep you informed and keep in touch.

Your National Council is looking for ways to strengthen the Bond between undergraduate Chapters and their Graduate Chapters. At the same time, we are looking at ways to strengthen the connection between all Chapters and the National office. If you have noticed an increase in alumni events, that’s one of the reasons. If you’ve noticed a greater interest in the pledging process and new support from the National office, such as the new National Bid Card, that’s one of the reasons why. If you have noticed a new energy in talking about the work of the Alpha Chi Rho Educational Foundation, that’s one of the reasons why.

We have always said, “Once a Crow, always a Crow.” We want the Bond sworn to at initiation to be a promise that sticks with a Brother for life. We need to hear from you how to make that promise more of a reality. Keep us informed of what you and your Chapter are doing. Tell us where you need support from other Brothers. Help us help you change the concept of fraternity life from “four years and out” to “Once a Crow, always a Crow.”

Pastor David B. Jost
AXP National Chaplain
Eta Phi ‘75