



Alpha Chi Rho Fraternity

R.B. Stewart National Headquarters

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Dear Brothers;

Brothers, it is with a deep sense of pain that I pen this letter. In the past few days two incidents have occurred that have caused me to stop and reflect on what it is that Alpha Chi Rho stands for. First, a member of the National Staff was assaulted by a Brother at a Chapter he was visiting and secondly during the Conclave this past weekend hosted by the Delta Phi Chapter items were removed from their Chapter house without permission.

In conversations with other Brothers it has become clear to me that it is time that we readdress what the expectations of Brotherhood are; how should our Landmarks guide us, what do they mean and how they impact our daily lives. We all know, or should know the Landmarks of our Order but the deeper question is do we understand them? Do you as a Brother in Alpha Chi Rho strive to use the Landmarks as guideposts for your day to day lives or are they just words we recite with no deeper meaning at all?

These conversations have led into bigger ones about what type of men are we recruiting? What are we teaching our Postulants? How do you continue to develop members' lives and be a benefit to them as they strike out into the larger world of career, family, and adulthood?

Perhaps it is time that we all stop and reflect on what it is we seek to gain from our affiliation with Alpha Chi Rho. I hope that you will find your answers in the Ritual and Brotherhood of your Chapters and the friendships that you have formed over the years. Hopefully, this will spur you to reinvest yourself in the Fraternity, increasing your Chapter involvement and becoming a leader both within and without of your Phi.

If you feel this way, take leadership to ensure that you and your Chapter are up to date with your Ritual performance and have all of the necessary equipment. Make sure that you and your Chapter are up to date financially both locally and Nationally. If you have to contact the National office and make arrangements for payment plans or the like do so. Being a Brother means meeting all of your commitments to the Brotherhood, don't allow your Chapter to slide down the



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slippery slope of "We'll get it to later" – later always comes and you are never prepared to pay the freight.

Should you find that you cannot find a reason for your affiliation with the Fraternity – that you find no benefit nor interest in Alpha Chi Rho then I encourage you to stand up and say so. No one will think less of you should you choose to remove yourself from the Phi – you will free yourself from a commitment that you do not wish to fulfill and alleviate a burden from your Chapter.

Recall the time when you were initiated and these words were spoken to you:

Wherever society exists in any form, and community prevails in any degree, the truth becomes evident that unselfishness is the most reliable source of happiness. If this principle is learned at the outset, the chapter will be safe from the danger of internal dissidence: otherwise the principle will be learned through painfully experience..... A chapter may be a benefit to an institution, and it may be a nuisance: it may also be one of the large class of appendages to every place of learning which are neither positively injurious nor positively beneficial, but are simply futile. Never let the chapter to which you belong be the cause of condemnation of your college or university or of Fraternities in general. Neither let it degenerate into a nonentity, which never lets its voice be heard; which is not a factor of college life; which has no excuse for existence, and is only allowed to exist because it is harmless. By the exercise of altruism within the chapter you will keep that unity of feeling and effort which is the highest character of Fraternity life.

Being a member of Alpha Chi Rho is not easy, it is not supposed to be; our Revered Founders wanted to ensure that all of their Brothers were committed to the success and strength of the Fraternity. To do so requires a combination of sweat, backbone, and internal strength. It means having the fortitude to tell a Brother that you will always love and respect him but you do not like his behavior and if he cannot change he will have to separate from the Chapter. It means having the guts to stop a Brother from having that 'one more' drink or that he cannot attend functions until his grades rise. It also means, standing up against



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the group and not being willing to offer a bid to someone who will bring nothing to your Chapter but "being a nice guy."

In short, it means being your Brother's keeper and holding him and yourself to account when the time is upon you.

It is my sincere hope that you will each take the time to make the conscious decision to stand up and be counted among the Brothers of Alpha Chi Rho who will not tolerate the disgrace of our Fraternity. I ask you to join me in recommitting to Alpha Chi Rho through word and deed.

Yours In the Bond of Brotherhood,

Victor M. Ramos, ΦΛ '91
National President