

Chaplain's Corner

Here's how it works in my line of work in the Lutheran Church: summer comes, so the choirs don't sing. If the choirs don't sing, parents don't have to bring their children to sing in the three youth choirs at our church. If the parents feel that they don't have reason to bring the children to worship, they all stay home.

OR adults who are tied to their jobs the other nine months of the year use the summer weekends as a time to get away from it all, including weekend worship.

I am going to guess that that is how it works for many of our undergraduate Brothers. School's out for the summer, and attention is given to summer jobs (but not summer school – all of our Crows are academic achievers – right?). Thoughts about giving time to make repairs on the Chapter house are pushed to the back of a Brother's mind. Sitting down to send a text message to another Brother just to see how he is doing over the summer is not thought of in the hustle and bustle of other summer activities. As Brothers of Alpha Chi Rho, we buy into the popular thinking of the rest of society – “Summer is mine, and don't force me to do anything I don't want to – no matter what my commitment to that something might be!”

I tell my parishioners that I don't mind if they don't worship here during the summer –as long as they worship someplace! When I think of church, or any other faith community, I think of “community”. It is a gathering of people with the same beliefs and the same hopes and dreams. That community can exist apart from our church building, and people of faith can move in and out of communities as their travels take them.

I hope the same is true of your Chapter affiliation this summer. I hope that, as you travel, that you will be able to stop by other Chapters and bring Brotherly greetings to the men there. We don't have a Convention this summer (next summer – Myrtle Beach, South Carolina!), but that doesn't stop any of you from contacting several other Brothers and finding some time to get together over the summer months. If you and your family own some beachfront property, that would be a good gathering place. If you live near a ballpark, that would be a great activity around which to gather.

My point is this: don't let the summer months be an escape from the community you have joined in Alpha Chi Rho! We've always said “Once a Crow, always a Crow!” I've never heard anyone say “Nine months a Crow, and then we're gone!” or “Four years a Crow, then we forget about it!” (I know – many undergraduate programs are now five years, but I am an old person who still thinks of college as a four year experience.)

When we pledged the Fraternity of Alpha Chi Rho, we made promises and took on responsibilities. We said that we would be a role model for other men – modeling good scholarship, good community relations and a solid commitment to Brotherhood. We are Crows 12 months of the year, for as many years as God gives us on this planet. Make the most of it, and find ways to “Be Men” together this summer. If you do have an

occasion to gather with other Brothers, be sure to let the National Office know. We would love to celebrate that news with all the other Brothers!

In the Bond,
Pastor David Jost
National Chaplain
Eta Phi '75

