

"No Man—No Boy Walks Alone"

Brethren:

As I write this letter I am reminded of the saying that "No Man Walks Alone." I am also reminded that as we walk we pass from the sunshine of youth into the trials and problems of manhood and then into the ever-lengthening shadows. This is the cycle of man's short stay on earth. I wonder how many have looked back as they entered the shadows and wished they could return to one or more levels of their journey and repair some damage they possibly did, do something they did not do or at least finish a job they left undone. How sorrowful! This need not be for us if we will but live by our Masonic teachings, and be understanding in our actions towards fellow human beings, especially our youth.

Never before has our youth needed help more than today. Today's youth is faced with problems which we escaped. They are pressured by a fast moving society, they are expected to learn more in less time than we did; they are faced with almost unavoidable military service. Is it any wonder then that our youth

turn to various means of spouting off steam in their search for some form of relaxation? Let us remember these lads are potential Masons. There is no better time to help them than now. Don't pass up this wonderful opportunity to help a lad; rather let us build a bridge that will help him during what should be his greatest years—his boyhood.

We can do this through the help of the Order of DeMolay. We of DeMolay ask that you help assist a lad by encouraging him to join the Order. You can do this in several ways. The way you live and act as a Master Mason will have a tremendous impact on him, your attendance at DeMolay meetings will prove to him that you are interested in boys. Help him financially by asking his parents if you may sponsor him. Remember, the period of his DeMolay membership represents the seven years in which he grows to manhood, his 14th to 21st years. Help him through these seven short years and he will emerge a better man.

HARRY F. BROWN
DeMolay Advisory Board,
Membership Chairman of
Mohawk Valley Chapter,
Utica, N. Y.

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The principle of separation of church and state was not put into our Constitution because of any hostility to religion. It is there because of a deep conviction that religious beliefs, like other ideas, can best flourish under a system in which government does not interfere either by supporting or discouraging any particular belief. The framers of the Constitution knew of the bitter strife that had been caused by the merging of state and church functions in Europe, and, indeed, in some of the American colonies. They decided therefore, that our system of government should avoid these frictions by separating the functions of state and church. Religion in America has been all the stronger and purer because it had to stand on its own feet with neither favoritism nor opposition from the government. At the same time government has been free from involvement in the internal affairs and rivalries of the churches.

—Justice William O. Douglas