



LEGION OF THIRTEEN INDUCTION MENU

"Alea iacta est"

Bread – The “breaking of bread” is a Judaic expression from ancient times signaling the beginning of a meal. It is a form of blessing indicating friendship, fellowship, peace and thanksgiving. Breaking bread represents the anticipation of lasting relationships, the promise of future meals together and longstanding friendships. As such, bread represents Liberty’s Foundation Stone of Perseverance.

Cheese – Cheese is milk concentrated and artfully preserved. The key ingredients are few, yet the combinations of them are innumerable. Time-tested adjustments of different milks, bacterium, climates and techniques have produced variations of cheeses that represent regions of the world, sub-regions, towns, even households. Artisans say that careful control of each production variable results in a unique balance, complex flavor, texture, character and appearance – just as in one’s life. Cheese represents Liberty’s Foundation Stone of Self-Control.

Grapes – Historically symbolic of good luck, grapes have been cultivated and improved over centuries. Careful refinement of grapes makes elegant wine. Grapes have sustained and defined nations. Celebrated among heraldry and peasantry, gods and man, grapes unite people. The “fruit of the vine” is celebrated in literature, art and history. The sweet fruit has played roles in the rising of nations and in their falling. Their production -- from field to the table -- requires capital, organization, trust, order, artistry, and cooperation. As such, grapes represent Liberty’s Foundation Stone of Citizenship.

Egg (Hard Boiled) – The egg holds life. It conveys hope and anticipation. As a symbol of springtime, the Passover and Easter, the egg is associated with revolutionary triumphs. Its ingenious shape, a natural perfection of symmetry, arranges its thin brittle shell into an ultimate fortress protecting its valuable contents. In every case, this design and its function is a self-evident creation of God intended to protect things that are good, until the optimal time of their revolutionary emergence. The egg represents Liberty’s Foundation Stone of Integrity.

Soup – Soup brings out and retains the best nutrients and flavors of its ingredients. All ingredients add to the overall flavor. Each pot is warmed to its own character. An impeccable soup entails an inventive balance of ingredients, all working together, mixing, stewing, giving, absorbing – becoming one mixture of perfection. Soup represents Liberty’s Foundation Stone of Cooperation.

Olives – The Latin oleum has two roots: The Cretan word *elaeva*, and the Semitic *ulu*. Olives have been cultivated for at least 6,000 years. Their powerful flavor, medicinal qualities and value are admired and savored worldwide. The olive tree is one of the longest-living organisms on earth. Throughout history, olives have signified life, royalty and peace. Olives represent Liberty’s Foundation Stone of Respect.

Honey – A natural food frequently mentioned in classical poetry and literature. It is often equated with psychic nourishment and the food of the saints. It is a symbol of spirituality and poetic inspiration. As such, it represents Liberty’s Foundation Stone of Responsibility.

Dates – Known as the “holy fruit of Arabia,” dates offer sweetness and goodness brought forth from harsh desert regions. Cultivation of date palms first occurred at least 6,000 years ago. Dates symbolize life and abundance to the people of the North African. Serving dates conveys cordiality, hospitality, and gratitude for one visiting. Dates represent Liberty’s Capstone Virtue of Gratitude.

Salad – Salads are fresh, raw, healthy, simple and flavorful. A salad’s constituent parts can stand on their own, yet mix well to achieve a creative symmetry. A good salad precedes and supports the rest of the meal. Salad represents Liberty’s Capstone Virtue of Temperance.

Butter – Derived from milk, butter is made by churning. Adding work to a pure, natural essential substance denotes a refinement. Butter represents an extension of love and generosity as from a parent to a child. Butter enhances all foods that it touches. Butter is associated with the Capstone virtue of Prudence.

Olive Oil – The olive tree is the most important classical fruit tree of the Mediterranean region. The value of the plant stems from the rich storable oil it produces. It is among the oldest plants associated with horticulture. References to olive oil drip from classical and Biblical literature. Homer, for example, described Ulysses as being cleansed and purified by olive oil. Throughout the ages, olive oil has been used to anoint kings and queens. Even today, olive oil is used for ritual cleansing and religious blessing giving one strength, courage and protection. Olive oil promotes health and adds flavor. Olive oil represents Liberty’s Capstone Virtue of Fortitude.

Pepper – In the Middle Ages, black pepper was so rare and highly valued that only the extremely wealthy could afford it. Made from the dried fruit of the pepper plant, the pepper’s oil adds powerful zest to other foods. Pepper possesses an overpowering flavor, and must be controlled in its use. In the proper quantities, pepper beautifully enhances any meal. Pepper symbolizes Liberty’s Capstone Virtue of Patriotism.

Salt – A natural substance once considered rare in the world and widely used as currency, salt symbolizes many things in many cultures. Salt repels evil, preserves goodness and transforms the flavor and properties of foods. Salt represents purity, wealth and good fortune. By taste, one can always determine the right amount for the circumstances – too little and the food is bland; too much and the food is poisonous. The perfect amount of salt creates a perfect meal. Salt symbolizes Liberty’s Capstone virtue of Justice.

The Meal – Combined, these virtuous ingredients constitute the ritual meal of the Legion of Thirteen. Taken together, this meal represents and celebrates Liberty’s Keystone Virtue of Wisdom.

Wisdom is a virtue pursued by all, yet possessed by only a few. This night, filled with its symbolism, is meant as a metaphor recalling the entirety of the journey that is, in fact, a complete Liberty Common School education.

Your parents, teachers, administrators and fellow students have sustained you along the path of an epic journey toward true freedom and true liberty. Everything you have been taught, from how to raise your hand in kindergarten, to now firmly grasping as a senior the laws of Nature and of Nature’s God, has been purposefully arranged and lovingly taught so as to arm you in life with the virtue of Wisdom.

These new Members of the Legion of Thirteen are from now forward revered and honored. Tonight their names become a permanent and esteemed part of our institutional history. They have literally received every intellectual advantage that Liberty Common School was meant to give. The Legion of Thirteen is the embodiment of a complete Liberty Common School education.

As such your welcome in this school extends to the end of your days. Your family’s name and your personal honor will be heralded in halls of this school for as long as it may stand. Liberty Common High School is now, and will forever be, your monument to earned Wisdom and authentic Liberty.

Recalling tonight, the crossing of the River Rubicon, your next journey is getting underway. You have become the educated adult that you were meant to be.

As with all epic journeys, your destination is not entirely clear – but, the direction is. Armed now with the wisdom of thirteen scholarly years, your path is forward and upward, better and better still, always toward truth, beauty and goodness, toward the good life and your eternal reward.

The journey itself is the essence of life. Success and prosperity will sustain you along the way, and wisdom will guide you. Of that, there can be no doubt.

Tonight, the die has been cast.
Alea iacta est!