

Grand Prelate's Reflection May 2022

Sir Knights;

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as the Grand Prelate these last few years. As with many things in life, it is hoped that we leave the position in a better place than when we started. That is no reflection on those who came before me. As was taught in scouting, "Always leave a place better than when you found it."

Just a few weeks ago, we celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior. To be sure, the trials and tribulations that Jesus endured is not something that should be celebrated. It should, however, always be remembered. Easter is a time of celebration. Our Lord rose from the dead. Later, he would ascend to be with his father. First, he forfeited his life for all of us. We are still in the season of Easter. That season lasts until we celebrate the Ascension.

Our world seems to be in trouble. The problems that exist in Europe seem to be mounting each day. Our country seems to be on the brink, along with many other countries, of the next World War. Prices of goods and services are on the rise. We are living in a country where everyone is struggling to find their niche. For some, that is their family. Others are finding that niche by way of their cellular devices and the associated applications that can be found on them. Who would believe that, twenty years ago, we would be moving into an age where folk judge themselves based on how many friends they have on Facebook?

Our daily lives can find us being pulled in many directions. It seems that life is much busier today than anyone might have hope. If you can think back to your parent or grandparents, it is hard to think that they lived such lives. For many, the greatest concern was what was going to be on the plate for dinner. We know that is really not the case. Their lives were filled with the issues they had during their time.

When life appears to be filled with the trials and tribulations of the day, we can look to our Lord and Savior for guidance. He showed us how to focus our lives. As his earthly life was coming to a close, he sought out his father for guidance. In the end, following all that he endured, his father raised him up and brought him close. That is the promise that God has made for us as well. When our earthly journey is at an end, we will be brought close to him.

Each day, life hands us many things that we need to sort through. As time, it can seem overwhelming. There are days when you might go to sleep exhausted and wake equally exhausted. Life seems to put forth one problem after another. It is at those times that we need to pause and ask God for his guidance. We need to ask him provide us with the strength and the courage to handle whatever life sends our way. Just as Jesus asked if God could take the cup of adversity from him, there are going to be times when the only answer is to give everything we have to the issue at hand.

Just as our Lord gave everything he had, so can we. We can do so with the knowledge that God is always with us. He never leaves our side. When our day is finally at an end, there is the knowledge that we will be drawn close to him. That will happen because of his Love for us. It is a love that is unending. Never forget that!

May God's Peace and Love be always with you;
Mark Pennypacker
Grand Prelate