

Sir Knights;

May is the month for Memorial Day. While this holiday is set aside to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation while serving in the military, I want to take a different look at memories.

Some memories may very well be of those who have served in the military. Others may be of those who have served as mentors to us in the craft (or in life in general). We truly have lost some mighty inspirational brethren and Sir Knights this year alone.

But I want to look at memories in another way. Memories are important to us. They shape who we are, what we know, how we act, and so many other aspects of our lives. And they also serve to remind us of who God is.

Last month we celebrated Easter, which reminds us of the life, sacrifice, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior to provide us eternal life. This month we celebrate Ascension Day, which took place forty days following Jesus' resurrection. Forty days where he continued to teach his followers how to continue his mission to the world, before he ascended into the heavens to sit on the right hand side of God.

These events, and so many others from the Bible, provide memories that should never be ignored or forgotten. They remind us of that point when we were dead in our trespasses but the love of God intervened in our lives to make us alive in Christ. As such, remembrance becomes worship that glorifies God and gives us hope. That hope manifests most gloriously when we remember the cross.

As Christians, and as Knights Templar, we need to embrace the memories of what God has done, and continues to do, in our lives, and to share that with the world around us. That is especially true in these days when the world is so divided and polarized in so many ways. We are called to remember God, His marvelous deeds recorded in the Bible, and his provisions for us during the course of our own lives. When we view our memories through the lens of the Gospel, we see God's grace at work and they can take on new meanings for us, and enable us to trust God more as we go forward to take the love of our Savior to those around us.

Always and All Ways in Christ

Rick Saunders

Grand Prelate