



Grand Prelate's Monthly Message

JUNE 2023

Sir Knights

The month of June brings us St. John's Day, in honor of John the Baptist, one of our two patron saints in Freemasonry. John the Baptist was a unique individual. He wore odd clothes and ate strange foods and he preached an unusual message. He had a unique ministry with a specific purpose: He was to announce the coming of the Saviour. The Bible tells us in John 1:6-8 that John was sent from God and came to bear witness to the light: To prepare the way and to point people to Christ.

John was a great example for us, as our job is similar to John the Baptist's. Like John, as followers of Christ, our job is to deflect attention away from us and to Jesus.

For many years in my youth I played bass guitar in a handful of rock bands. Some of those bands were pretty good, and some were not. But I had a lot of fun playing. The band that I played in the longest was pretty good. We worked hard, we practiced a lot, and we even won a battle of the bands competition. But no matter how hard we tried, we never really made it beyond the status of a supporting act. You are probably familiar with supporting acts, also known as warm up acts. They're not headlining the show, and they are not the main reason people come. Their primary focus is to entertain and call attention to the main act that is coming up a short time later.

John the Baptist, throughout his life, was something of a supporting act. That's what his life was about. He served before, and he supported the main act, the "One who was coming," which was Jesus. That was his job: Supporting before, behind, around, in the background, so that when Jesus came, His voice could ring out loud and clear. It was John's job to wake people up before Jesus came. To give them a sense that God was active in this world. It had been quite a long time since a great prophet had been active in Israel, so John's job was to awaken people to the fact that God was still active and still sending people out into the world to be his servants. John's job was to prepare people's ears so that they could hear Jesus' message.

Like John, each of us is unique. We each have unique talents and spiritual gifts. Sometimes we may doubt our value. As a bass guitarist I was never going to be main instrument people wanted to hear. But when I played the bass correctly, and in time with the other instruments, then it added to the music, making a song that everyone enjoyed.

An orchestra is made up of many instruments. Not all are played exactly alike. Not all play the exact same thing, but each musician is only responsible for the one instrument that they are playing. And when everyone plays their part correctly, it sounds fantastic.

When we use the gifts that God has given us, and do what He has called us to do, in conjunction with the rest of the body of Christ, then mighty things will happen.

We need to follow the example of John the Baptist. Faithfully follow where God is leading us. Serving together as Knights Templar and always pointing the way to Jesus Christ. Do that and we will experience what John the Baptist experienced by letting the world see Christ through us. So get out there and be a John the Baptist for the world today.

Always and All Ways in Christ,

Rick Saunders
Grand Prelate