



## Grand Prelate's Monthly Message

APRIL 2024

The story of the Trojan Horse is well-known. First mentioned in the *Odyssey*, it describes how Greek soldiers were able to take the city of Troy after a fruitless ten-year siege by constructing a huge wooden horse, and hiding a select force of men inside, before pretending to sail away. The Trojans pulled the horse into the city as a victory trophy. That night, the Greek force crept out of the horse and opened the gates for the rest of the Greek army, which had sailed back under the cover of darkness. The Greeks entered and destroyed the city, ending the war.

The Trojan horse may seem like odd example for a Christian devotion, but I would suggest that we are like the Trojan horse in that we carry within us the mighty force of Christ's nature and presence. Those who live and move among us have no idea what's inside until the door opens. If we are living for God, then people will see an all-surpassing power that they know must surely come from God. It can't come from the "horse". The horse, after all, isn't much. Indeed, it is powerless in itself, but, as we read in 2 Corinthians 4:7, "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us."

Sir Knights, I would suggest that we embrace our calling as Trojan horses to the world around us. It is a clever and effective strategy. The armor of God passage in Ephesians 6:10-17 describes this strategy. The various armor parts listed there enclose the entire body, and together they form our defense. Although these parts normally function externally, here they function internally. They protect us by giving us a character disposition that is resilient to threatening temptations.

Let us, for example, take "the shield of faith". A secure faith in our mighty God can shield us from any threats that tempt us to fight back or run away. Our awareness of God enables us to stand firm. We know we have Christ's all-surpassing power within.

The armor of God passage warns us not to fight against "flesh and blood people" because people are not our real enemy. Our real adversary is comprised of spiritual forces and influences that work both inside and outside of us. Through Christ we have spiritual weapons to overcome them. It is our God-given duty to apply this armor through our actions and obedience to God.

So, as we travel among people each and every day, let us remember that we are carrying Christ with us, and live and act in ways that open the door to people so that the Holy Spirit within us will be made evident to them.

Always and All Ways in Christ,

Rick Saunders  
*Grand Prelate*