



Grand Prelate's Monthly Message

JULY 2024

Sir Knights,

For nearly 250 years, citizens of the United States of America have celebrated our independence on the Fourth of July. We watch fireworks, fly the flag, march in parades, have cookouts, and do many other things to celebrate our freedom as a nation. While Independence Day is not a religious holiday like Christmas or Easter, for many Americans it is a time to reflect on God's goodness to us as a nation. American liberty is a blessing from God. Because of our freedom, we can express our faith and share it with others. Something that is not possible in some parts of the world.

We should take time to reflect on the ways God has blessed us and make it our goal not to take the freedom we have for granted. The Liberty Bell, in Philadelphia, has Leviticus 25:10 inscribed upon it, saying, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

Ephesians 3:12 gives us reason to celebrate another kind of freedom. It reads: "In him (Christ) and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence." It is a good thing to be free to worship our Lord.

Do you ever marvel at the freedom God has given you to approach him? Do you take advantage of this freedom?

As Christian Sir Knights our independence is demonstrated when we exercise our dependence on God. He created us to depend on Him, and we will find our total fulfillment in Christ, who has set us free and given us the ultimate liberty. In Christ we have true freedom.

We should, by all means, take time to thank God for the freedom we have in this country. But we should always be grateful for the freedom that Christ has given us to approach God with confidence. Let us thank God together for this amazing freedom that he has given us.

And while we look with gratitude to the past at this time of the year, we should also look in faith to the future, and commit it, and our lives, to serving God and sharing his love with the world around us. We have an amazing opportunity to seek out meaningful ways to positively impact the lives of others. We can pray for others, assist people who are hurting, provide for people's needs, or simply step in and help with small tasks that are needed. By using our freedom to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus in the world around us, we can make a positive impact on the lives that we are given the opportunity to touch. Remembering, as we do so, the words of the Psalm 33:12 "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12)

Always and All Ways in Christ
Rick Saunders
Grand Prelate