



## Grand Prelate's Monthly Message

AUGUST 2024

Sir Knights,

No doubt some of you are watching the Olympics this month. As I do so, I am reminded of an incident in the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, when American rifleman Matthew Emmons was one shot away from winning the gold medal in the men's 50 meter competition. He had a significant lead, and pretty much could assure the gold just by hitting the target.

Emmons took aim and fired. As he looked through the scope, he saw that he had hit the bullseye. But when he looked up, the scoreboard showed that he had earned zero points.

Emmons had hit the bullseye, but not on his target. He had mistakenly aimed at, and shot, the Chinese shooter's target in the next lane. It was a crossfire, one that gave the Chinese shooter the gold medal and dropped Emmons to 8th place.

Somehow, Emmons had focused on the wrong target.

It is all too easy in this world we live in to get caught up in everything around us and focus on the wrong assignment. And that can cause us to misunderstand the nature and purpose of God's kingdom.

No matter how hard we are trying, or how good we are doing, we have to make sure that we do not lose our focus. In 2 Corinthians 4:18, Paul says, "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." In verse 16 of that same chapter, Paul says, "inwardly we are being renewed day by day."

Fine tuning our focus is a daily process. Paul was not saying that we need to be saved daily. No, he was saved on the road to Damascus when he recognized Jesus as Lord. But ever since that day, he had been in the process of discipleship, growing steadily in Christ.

That is our goal. To grow in Christ, and to keep our focus on Him as we serve together. We must continue to look to Christ, and make sure that we do not aim for the wrong target. Our Order, in fact, the church itself, does not exist for programs or projects. The nature of God's kingdom on earth is for us to be relevant to the spiritual and sociological needs of today's society. To focus on God and to serve together faithfully to display God's glory, impact the culture around us, restore lives, and advance His kingdom. Let us unite together to focus on the right target, and may our efforts be aimed at Jesus Christ and His kingdom.

Always and All Ways in Christ  
Rick Saunders  
*Grand Prelate*