



Grand Prelate's Monthly Message

JULY 2025

Summer is fully upon us and here we are in July. Freedom is a common topic during this month, especially since July brings us Independence Day, in which we celebrate our Freedom.

That word 'Freedom' has many significances. We are truly blessed to be living in a nation where we have freedoms that people in many other countries do not have. We have freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and the list goes on and on.

Freedom can mean different things in various contexts. As someone who enjoys riding a motorcycle, 'freedom' conjures up images of being out there on the open road, surrounded by God's creation as I enjoy traveling along the highways and byways of this great nation. Likewise, there are countless ways for people to find, and express 'freedom'. The Cambridge Dictionary defines 'freedom' as: *The condition or right of being able or allowed to do, say, think, etc. whatever you want to, without being controlled or limited...*

Of course, our freedoms came with a cost. Many—from those who fought for our independence in the Revolutionary War, to those serving today—have paid the cost for our freedom.

There is another freedom that we need to celebrate. Thomas Jefferson wrote, "The God who gave us life...also gave us liberty." We can never be fully free until we have been released from our spiritual bondage. Jesus Christ offers us that liberty. He offers us eternal salvation, giving us independence from our old sinful ways.

'Freedom' for most people means "freedom from"—the absence of malice or pain or suppression. But the freedom that God offers us includes the "freedom to"—*Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.* (1 Peter 2:16)

Galatians 5:13-14 tells us, *"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*

We find freedom in Christ through making him our Lord and Savior. This is the good news. The two verses we just read tell us to live as servants of God. This might seem paradoxical to what freedom is, but for those who are being led by Christ, this is how we find true joy. We have the freedom to live however we want, but our desire for God will be demonstrated by our love for others.

Those of us who are believers should celebrate that freedom each and every day of our lives. But we should also be out there doing our part to share with others how they too can experience freedom through Jesus Christ.

Sir Knights, let us celebrate our freedoms through our service to God. And always remember and honor those who helped to provide those freedoms for us. Give thanks for this great nation and be thankful for the many blessings that we have. And, most of all, praise God that, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we can celebrate—every day—our own Independence Day.

Always and All Ways in Christ

Rick Saunders

Grand Prelate