



Grand Prelate's Monthly Message

JULY 2026

During the month of July, we celebrate Independence Day, when our thoughts naturally turn to the freedoms we enjoy as citizens of this great nation. We remember the courage of those who pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor in the cause of liberty. We honor the generations of Americans who have sacrificed to preserve those freedoms, often at great personal cost. Gratitude for such blessings is both fitting and necessary, for freedom is among the most precious gifts bestowed upon mankind.

Yet for the Christian, freedom carries a meaning that reaches beyond national independence. While political liberty allows us to govern ourselves and pursue our aspirations, spiritual liberty transforms the very purpose for which we live. The Apostle Peter reminds believers, "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).

Peter's words challenge a common misunderstanding of freedom. The world often teaches that freedom means the absence of obligation: the ability to do whatever one desires. Scripture presents a different vision. True freedom is not found in casting off responsibility but in willingly dedicating ourselves to the service of God. Through the redeeming work of Jesus Christ, we have been set free from the bondage of sin, selfishness, and spiritual darkness so that we might become faithful servants of our Lord and compassionate servants to one another.

This truth should resonate deeply within the heart of every Christian Sir Knight. As Believers, we profess our allegiance to Christ: our Lord, Savior and King. The principles of our Order call us to lives marked by honor, charity, courage, and fidelity. We do not wear the mantle of Knighthood for our own distinction, but as a reminder that Christian service is our highest calling. The freedom we enjoy in Christ is demonstrated most clearly when we extend kindness to the lonely, provide assistance to those in need, encourage a struggling Brother, support our churches, and labor for the good of our communities.

Freedom rightly exercised always produces gratitude. It should lead us to recognize that many blessings we enjoy today were purchased through the sacrifices of others. We are especially mindful of those faithful Sir Knights and Brethren who came before us. Their dedication preserved the principles and traditions we now inherit. They labored faithfully in their day so that we might continue the work in ours. Their example reminds us that every generation bears a responsibility to continue the legacy we share: that of faith, service, and integrity, for those who will follow.

As we celebrate our nation's independence, we should also remember that our highest freedom was secured not on a battlefield, but at Calvary. There, through His sacrifice, Christ purchased our redemption and opened the way to eternal life. Because of Him, we are free—not to live for ourselves, but to live for God. Such freedom should fill our hearts with humility, gratitude, and a renewed commitment to service.

May we therefore give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy, both as citizens and as Christians. May we honor the memory of those who sacrificed for our nation, and for our faith. And may we, as Christian Knights, use our liberty wisely and faithfully—walking in honor, practicing charity, strengthening our communities, encouraging our Brethren, and bringing glory to Jesus Christ in all that we do. In so doing, we demonstrate that true freedom is not found in self-interest, but in joyful service to God and to our fellow man.

Always and All Ways in Christ

Rick Saunders

Grand Prelate