

August 2021 Grand Prelates Reflection

Sir Knights;

During the last few weeks, we have been given the wonderful opportunity to see the world come together in a way that does not happen on a daily basis. The Summer Olympic Games being held in Tokyo are a sign that the world can overcome many things. If you have had the opportunity to watch the games, you will see that there are no fans filling the seats. The athletes are working hard, not only for themselves, but for their respective countries. It is absolutely amazing.

So often, we hear that the only reason athletes do things is for the endorsement deals or for the applause that they receive from the stands. These Olympics are not a sign that is the case. The athletes are working hard in a way that we don't normally see them work. If you were ever an athlete, imagine doing the very best you can when there are only a few to support you.

The one thing that many fail to understand is that most of the people, who come to the games to perform, never win anything. There are no medals for them. They are simply there representing their countries and doing the very best they can in their respective sports. Most athletes are not mentioned on the media. They will go back to their homes and few will be ever heard from again. The athletes will go on with their lives.

For most, they will have the knowledge that they did the best they could and represented their country in the best manner possible. That is their award. They did the very best they could and that, for many, is enough of an award.

The Knights Templar is not very different. We are a group of Christians who are called together to do the very best we can for other people. To be sure, some will be recognized for their work. The vast majority will not. The vast majority simply live their lives as a Knight Templar should. They live a simple life. They follow the commandments of God. That is exactly what our Lord and Savior asks us to do.

To be sure, there are those that must be in a leadership position. That job is a difficult job. They must lead us in the good times and in the pandemic times. Our leadership is doing just that. We must pray, each day, that God will guide them in all of their endeavors. May they have the courage and perseverance to lead us in the troubled times.

Every Sir Knight also needs that courage and perseverance. Though most do not have the weight of a leadership position on their shoulders, we do have the weight of being a Knight Templar in our lives. We must never forget the promises that we made at the altar. Let us always pray for God's strength and guidance to be with us in good times and not so good times.

As we reflect on the Tokyo Olympics, may we be filled with God's Holy Spirit. May we see how, in a world that is often problematic, it can give us a glimmer of hope for His Love to shine through. That is the manner in which we need to live our lives. Let us pray that, as we go about our lives, God might use us to shine in a world that needs it.

Until next month, may God's Peace and Love be always with you.

Mark Pennypacker

Grand Prelate