

January 2021 Grand Prelate Reflection

Sir Knights;

As Masons, we are taught that before we do anything, we should pray. There are those that might think that this is just a statement that we utter as part of ritual. It is not. When in seminary, one of my professors taught us that when something was important we needed to “Read, Mark, Learn and Inwardly Digest”. That is what we need to do with prayer.

In the midst of the COVID pandemic, we find ourselves in strange and unknown territory. When folk are in need, it is difficult to know how to help them. Many cannot leave their homes. Many might not have the financial resources to assist with helping to fund someone in need. Many simply do not know how to help. It is at that time that we might turn to prayer.

There are those that might not think that simply offering a prayer is enough. It seems so simple. That is the great thing about it. In logic, when confronted with a problem, the simplest answer is usually the best one.

The power of prayer should not be underestimated. Prayer is our conversation with God. Each Sunday, when in church, the congregation will lift up as one voice in prayer. The more we engage in prayer, the higher the volume in our conversation with God. That does mean that we need to scream at God. As a child raises its voice to gain the attention of their parent, so some believe that is what we need to do for our Heavenly Father. Yet, as parents, we know the difference between listening to a request and answering that request.

Prayer is not limited to groups. The power of one cannot be underestimated. Our Lord and Savior understood this. Throughout the Gospels, we see that Jesus took the time to pray. Many times, he would go off by himself and pray. This is not limited to the Christian faith. Gandhi, as a Hindu, would go off in prayer. Buddha sat under a tree, praying, until he received Nirvana. As Christians, we mark every important event of our lives with prayer. We pray at our Baptism. We pray when we are married and we pray at the end of our lives.

As Europeans began to settle the world, the first building constructed was always a Chapel. They understood the importance of prayer and that it needed to be part of their daily lives. The Chapel was usually built in the center of the community. That was purposeful. It was done so that everyone was reminded what needed to be at the center of their lives. As Masons, that should be familiar to us.

Each month, we are gathering in new and unique ways. Video conferencing is pretty amazing. We are not permitted to conduct our normal ritual. We might not wear our uniforms or get to do our sword tactics. Perhaps, some have figured out a way to do some of that. The one thing that we can do is pray. There is nothing stopping us from raising our collective voices to our Heavenly Father. We might have many who are in need and ask for God’s divine intervention. We should also never forget to thank Him for all that we have. Let us, amidst all of the trials taking place today, never forget to thank Him for sending his Son to us.

Until next month, may God’s hand reach out and take care of those who are sick or in any need. May He watch over all who are there to protect us from the troubles of the world. May His love and guidance be with us. Finally, let us give thanks for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

May God’s Peace always be each and every one of us.

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Grand Prelate