

## July 2021 Grand Prelates Reflection

Sir Knights;

Have you ever had someone express the following sentiment, “Oh, how I wish things would get back to normal!” For the last year, many have made that statement. The pandemic has certainly caused all of us to pause and wish we could get back to the way things used to be. In my daily walks, it seems that the number one trash item, on the side of the road, is a tossed mask.

We wish the same thing for the weather. The Northwestern United States is seeing some of the highest temperatures ever recorded in that area. And, we are seeing our own heat wave. What ever happened to a “normal” summer or a “normal” time in our lives? Many of us wish that life could return to the way things were as children growing up.

Perhaps your childhood was filled with some of the following memories. You watched cartoons on a Saturday morning on your black and white television. Milk was delivered a couple of times each week to those silver boxes on the back porch. That was also true of bread, potato chips and a few other items we ate each week. A quarter in our pocket meant a trip to the local candy store where we could get a bag of penny candy for that quarter. Perhaps some of you might remember that there was candy available for two or three for a penny.

A friend was talking about how the weather is changing. They said that they remembered a time when the snow came up past their shoulders. What they do not remember is that the snow was at that height when they were four or five when that happened. They were considerably shorter.

Imagine a time before our Lord and Savior came into the world. Try as we might, we cannot. For one, none of us were there. Two thousand years is a long period of time. Things have progressed a good bit since that time. Though people are essentially the same, the world is different. Perspectives have changed. Just as our perspectives change over life, so the view of earlier times change. Secondly, the Lord told us that, “Lo, I am with you always”. Jesus has promised to be with us at all times and in all things.

As a Knight Templar, we are challenged to live the Christian life in a world that seems to be always changing. It is a world that has its good times and not so good times. It is natural for us to long to always have the good times. When our Lord faced the cross, he might have longed for better times. But, he took on the cross as an example of how to face the not so good times. Even on the cross, he helped others. He gave them hope and he comforted those around him.

There are times when we appear to be in a battle and waging war on the various things going on in the world. It is at those times that we carry our faith as a shield and move forward. It may not be at a run. It might be one small step at a time. The important thing is to keep the faith and move forward. Enjoy life in the new normal!

Until next month, may God’s Peace and Love be always with you!

Mark Pennypacker  
Grand Prelate