

November 2021

Sir Knights;

We are approaching the end of a very trying year for all of us. The pandemic does not seem to be ending. People are tiring of the isolation and the wearing of masks. It feels great to be outside and breathing the fresh air. That is especially true at this time of year. The leaves are turning and there is crispness in the air that is not felt at any other time of the year.

The month of November is special because it is the time when we set aside one day to be thankful for all that God has given us. Many will be spending time with family, watching sports, shopping and, for many, relaxing. We remember those brave souls who traveled from the world they knew to a world full of danger. They wanted a place where they could worship God in the manner that they wanted to.

Thanksgiving is a reflective time. We review all that we have and give thanks to God for those gifts. Most of us have every reason to be thankful. Even if the year has not been the best, there are usually more pluses than minuses. We have the opportunity to come together as Knights Templar. We wear our fancy hats, wield our swords and have numerous items pinned to our chest. It is pretty amazing.

The early Knights Templar were not so lucky. They wore the same uniform day in and day out. They were constantly challenged for their faith. In the Holy Land, they were always working to help the Pilgrims as they traveled. It could not have been an easy time. It may have been difficult for them to offer thanks because they were constantly working to help others. We do know that, through their writings, they did offer thanks. They took the time to worship God and offer thanks to Him for sending His son, Jesus Christ, to us.

It would have been easy for them to sit back and rest on their laurels. They did not. They kept working. Until their dying day, they pledged to help those in need. That might very well be our lesson for this month. To be sure, we need to take the time to give God thanks for all He has given us. We also need to keep moving forward. We need to continue to help those around us in need. There is so much need around us. Is there something we can do to make a life better?

Our Lord and Savior provided the best example of that. He offered His life as a sacrifice to all. As the Son of God, it would have been very easy to sit back and offer thanks. He did not. He kept working until His dying day. Even on the cross, Jesus helped those around Him. It is so important to give thanks. We also need to keep working. This day, may we pledge to continue assisting those in need. Let us pray that God might use us as a tool by which His work might be accomplished and that, because of that work, another might give thanks to God. Happy Thanksgiving!

Peace;

Mark Pennypacker  
Grand Prelate