

August 2018 Grand Prelate Reflection

Sir Knights;

This past month, the world was captivated by the plight of the Thai Soccer team that was stranded in a cave. It can only be called a miracle that all of the boys and their coach were rescued safely. Unfortunately, there was one fatality. A former Thai Navy Seal ran out of oxygen as he was placing oxygen tanks for the rescue mission. Our thoughts are with him, his family and friends. Our thoughts are also with the soccer team, their family and friends. We lift all of them up to God's tender loving care.

Years ago, while in seminary, a number of students engaged in a discussion on what constitutes a miracle. To this day, one of the best definitions that has been heard is, "A miracle is when God acts in a way that is different than what we expect." If we examine the Passion narrative, we can see that does seem to fit. It is at that time that God "sent his only Son, to be born of a woman, to endure the pains and sorrows incident of human life and, finally, to suffer the cruel and ignominious death on the cross." God acted in a way that we least expected. He did it for us because of his love for us.

In the last few years, the Roman Catholic Church has been examining the lives of individuals who had a great impact on the faith. Included in that group are Mother Theresa and Pope John Paul II. The faithful would like to see that they are canonized or, in other words, created Saints. There are very strict guidelines as to who the Roman Catholic Church can canonize. Included in the guidelines are the passage of time and whether or not a miracle can be attributed to their lives. That can be daunting.

Other faith groups are not as stringent. A popular hymn, until it became politically incorrect, was, "The Saints of God". The first line states, "I sing a song of the Saints of God, patient and brave and true, who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew." (Church Hymnal, 1982) That is a wonderful statement of how to live one's life.

As Knights Templar, we are called upon to live our lives in the service of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. That service does not call for us to ask God to perform miracles. It calls for us to serve with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This morning, a fellow Sir Knight sent a posting to me. It stated, "Don't look down on someone unless you are helping them up." We, as Knights Templar, are called upon to serve the needs of others. In doing so, we might well be the conduit through which the Holy Spirit acts. In taking on this charge, and working to fulfill it, we are truly doing what we are called to do. Are we going to perform miracles? When we provide meals to a family, so their children do not have to go to bed hungry, this might be a miracle to that family.

In living our lives, let us allow the Holy Spirit to work through us. May the power of God work through us to make the world a better place today than it was yesterday and a better place tomorrow than it is today.

Until next month, may the Peace of God be always with you.

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