

January Grand Prelate Reflection

Sir Knights;

As we enter a New Year, many will come up with New Year's resolutions. The vast majority of those who attempt their resolutions will quickly abandon them. Each January, the gyms are inundated with folk who want to become fit. It can be an annoyance to those who work out regularly at the gym. It is a waiting game though. The regulars know that, in about a month, the vast majority of those who signed on will grow weary and not come back.

In the movie, Apollo 13, there is a well know NASA statement, "Failure is not an option". In that particular space flight, failure was an option. But, no one wanted to consider it as it would have cost lives. Failure is a part of our lives. We have all encountered failure in one way or another. When Thomas Edison was asked about the more than 1,000 failed attempts in making a light bulb, he responded, "I just found 1,000 ways not to make a light bulb".

Our society has become one of entitlement. Everyone has to win. In children's sports, everyone has to receive a trophy. Many sports are eliminating score keeping. The league's want the children to learn and enjoy the sport without the stress of a score. To be sure, there is merit in those thoughts. But, one has to wonder if it prepares a child for the future "real" world. Our local school division is eliminating the title of Valedictorian from their school's awards. There are some schools where students a grade of "F" cannot be given. Students cannot fail. We even had a federal mandate entitled, "No child left behind". Children must be given every opportunity for success.

Through the birth, life and death of Jesus Christ, we have received the opportunity for eternal salvation. Through his actions, we know that we can fail. But, we can rise from those failures because our Lord is there to lift us up. It is not something to which we are entitled. God did not have to intervene in our lives. But, because he loves us and wants the best for us, he sent his son to us. Perhaps, that is the message for this month. God's promise to us is not one of entitlement. It is a promise that requires our best efforts. Though we might fail, we are assured in the promise that God will not fail us.

When we are pursuing those New Year's resolutions, perhaps we might choose to follow the lead of our Heavenly Father. Many resolutions fail because they are for our own personal gain. Losing weight and getting in shape might be great goals. But, how do they benefit the rest of humanity. As Knights Templar, we promised to help others. We promised to put others before ourselves. If we are going to set a resolution, perhaps we should set one which will benefit those in need. With any resolution there is the opportunity for failure. If we did not make an attempt to help others where would they be without our attempt? It's just something to ponder.

May God lift you up in this New Year and help to guide you down the path so that you might do his work and fulfill your promise of a Knight Templar.

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