

June 2018 Grand Prelate Message

Sir Knights;

Many Christian faith groups follow a yearly calendar. There are specific periods of time which are followed through the year. Lent, Advent, Easter and Christmas seasons are the most notable. Yet, the longest period of time is Pentecost. In many denominations, this lasts from the spring through the fall.

Pentecost is an event that is related to us in the Acts of the Apostles,” When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”

This event has been interpreted as the time when the Holy Spirit entered the disciples and gave them their mission in life. It gave them their task in life. “⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. “

As Knights Templar, we also hear that call of Pentecost. For, we are Christians. The obligation we took emphasized those points of our own personal Pentecost event. “As Knights Templar, we are bound to give alms to poor and weary pilgrims traveling from afar, feed the hungry, cloth the naked.”

The disciples would spend the rest of their lives answering the call of their faith. Most would give their lives in what would be deemed tragic ends. Yet, they willingly gave their lives. They did so because their faith was strong. They did so because it was their commitment. It was their duty.

For many, the idea of giving your life for your faith is foreign. In today’s world, there are so many who have what can be deemed a sense of “entitlement”. They will only reach out to help others if it convenient or if there is something to be gained. In our obligation, there is nothing that talks about convenience. We are called upon to do work. We are called upon to help others who are in need. That is the reason that the Knights Templar began. Nothing has changed from that first call.

As we enter the season of Pentecost, perhaps we can take a moment to think about our obligations. Are there things we can do to help those around us who are in need? Are there ways in which we might live out our Templar vows? If you can think of one thing, can you act upon it? Can your Commandery?

In this time of Pentecost, may the spirit of God descend upon you and enable you to follow the example of the disciples and of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Until next month, may God’s Peace be always with you.

Mark Pennypacker
Grand Prelate