

October Grand Prelate Reflection

As we write this, the world has been struck by another tragedy. There was a tsunami in Indonesia. It has killed hundreds of people. During the weekend, someone commented that the people shouldn't live there as it is in a danger zone. Another commented that we really shouldn't care because the people who lived there were of a different religion and got what was coming to them. Both comments gave me pause.

We live in a time when the world has more people than it has ever seen. During our lives, we will probably see ten billion people in the world. During our children's lives, they might see twenty billion people. You might have heard people say that there is more crime today than ever. That is true. Of course, there are more people. And, with our media, we hear about the no so good things more than ever. It is sad that our media feels compelled to spend more time reporting the no so good events as opposed to the uplifting events.

In any case, we might ask ourselves, "How should we act when a crisis occurs?" Should we not act because someone put themselves in danger? If a driver drank alcohol and crashed into a tree, would we not stop and help them? Or, would we simply say, "They shouldn't have been drinking and driving?" If a crisis occurs in another country, should we not act because they are of a different religion or because they think about things differently than you and I?

In the early days of the Christian Church, pilgrims from all over Europe traveled to Jerusalem. It was a harrowing journey. Many died on their way. As they came ashore in the Holy Land, they still had a major task ahead of them. They had to journey through the hills to reach Jerusalem. Along the way, many of them were robbed, beaten and sometimes killed. To be sure, there were people who probably said that they shouldn't have gone as they knew what was going to happen. Some might have even stated that they got what they deserved.

It was in that light that the Knights Templar came into existence. They recognized that the pilgrims were in danger and their existence was predicated on the support of people that they didn't even know making it safely to Jerusalem. The Knights Templar knew that these folk were putting themselves in danger and yet they chose to support them. It was their calling. They believed that God was calling them to this particular service.

When there is a crisis in the world, there are many who do not act. Many sit back and make comments such as the ones heard this past weekend. It is easy to make such comments. There is very little effort given. But, it is for those who do respond at a time of crisis that God will lift up with the "Wings of Angels". When a crisis occurs, perhaps that is the time for us, as Knights Templar, to respond. Just as our earlier brethren responded without concern for why things were happening, it is important for us to act. It is important, with so many negative things going on in the world that we respond as a light in that darkness.

Our lives have been given to us by God. Our Lord and Savior gave his life for all of us. Though he did ask his Father, at a time of prayer, "why", it did not stop him from acting. May we live our lives in such a way as to act for the benefit of all? May we follow our Lord's example? May we pray for God's strength to carry out that which he would have us do for all of humanity?

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

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