

The Hoosier Templar

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Phillip Whisner, GC

GC's Thanksgiving Column

A Grateful Heart

By SK PHILLIP WHISNER

Grand Commander

When we moved into our current home three years ago, Lady Connie bought a wall hanging for the master bathroom that says, "Begin each day with a grateful heart." I thought the bathroom was an odd place to put that wall hanging, but she pointed out that it would be a good reminder to us every day as we started our day to always be grateful. Some days it is harder to be grateful than others: days when we're tired, or not feeling well, or know we have a hard day in front of us, or we have received sad news about friends or family.

It's also often easy to take for granted things for which we should be grateful. I looked at that sign in our bathroom recently, after receiving the November issue of the "Knight Templar" publication, and a thought occurred to me. I've never considered being grateful for the simple fact of being able to see that sign. One of the greatest gifts we have is the ability to see, and it is also one of the easiest things to take for granted. If you read your "Knight Templar" publication, you read the story of Livie Klinefelter. She was born with a rare mutation that rendered her legally blind and appeared destined to be totally blind by the time she was a teenager. Thanks to the research and work at the Vision Center at the Children's Hospital in Los Angeles, she now has 20/60 vision, plays competitive soccer, has a blue belt in karate, and a bright future ahead of her.

The research and work at the Vision Center were possible thanks to the Knights Templar Eye Foundation. KTEF is the only foundation in the world exclusively devoted to childhood blindness. Whether you are 20, 40, 60, or 80, think about all you have been able to experience because of being able to see. Lady Connie and I have been blessed and fortunate to have experienced many of the wonders of God's world in our travels. What a different experience it would have been to not have been able to actually see the incredible waterfalls, blue skies, waves in the oceans, and majestic mountains that we have been able to visit. Or even worse, what if we had not been able to see the faces of each of our daughters and grandchildren as they were born?

Sir Knights, we have an opportunity to help other children like Livie to see and experience the beauty and wonders of God's world. If you haven't already, please consider becoming a Life Sponsor for KTEF. The cost is \$30 but the rewards are priceless. Talk to your Recorder, contact a member of the State KT Eye Foundation Committee, or contact me for more information. If you are already a Life Sponsor, thank you – but you can continue to donate to KTEF, no matter how small the donation may be.

We will celebrate Thanksgiving in just a few weeks. As we gather with family and friends, and see their smiling faces, the delicious food on our tables, and even the football games on TV, let us be grateful for

the blessing of sight. And then let us remember that we can help a child have the same blessing and these same experiences who might not be able to without the work of the KTEF

Before we get to Thanksgiving, there is a day honoring a group of people who also may sometimes be taken for granted – our veterans. Without these brave men and women who are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for each of us, we might not be able to come together as Brothers and Sir Knights, have a foundation such as KTEF, or celebrate Thanksgiving. We are grateful for all those who have served and who continue to serve in all branches of the military. “Thank you” does not seem like enough to say, but they are the only words we have to show our gratitude. So, thank you to all our veterans!

The blessing of sight. Men and women who are willing to “support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.” These are just two reasons that we should always “begin each day with a grateful heart!”

Wishing you and your family a blessed Thanksgiving,

Grand Prelate’s Monthly Message

Guided to Salvation

By SK ARCHIE R. SMALLWOOD, KCT, PGC

Grand Prelate

Sir Knights of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Indiana we now embark on the 11th month of the year, yes November.

This month is the month that we celebrate many wonderful events, especially that of Thanksgiving. We as Christian Knights should be Thankful and grateful that we know giving Praise to the Captain of our Salvation, Jesus Christ. Each of us can be thankful we are here in body and spirit to give Praise and to be thankful that another day we wake up with a heart that loves the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

You may say why is November so special especially Thanksgiving? The answer is simple: we are thankful that we have, and we know about Jesus Christ. This message is about our dedication to our Christian lives we live, and the giving of ourselves to others through our actions for the Lord. You may ask why do we proclaim so much about the Christian belief? It is because as we first began, we were soldiers of the cross and choose to be witness and helper for those who could not make it on their own, but requested help, and thank God we were there then, and we are here again now.

GUIDED THROUGH THE NIGHT

There is a stretch of highway going up into the mountains of western North Carolina that has been under construction for many years. The North Carolina Department of Transportation has the monumental task of blasting boulders and mangled tree roots to carve a smooth pathway into the high country. Vehicles have been caught in rockslides and temporary road closings. Signs flash through the night, “Proceed with Caution,” guiding drivers through the winding, twisting maze.

When travelers get to the top of the mountain and see the welcomed sign, “End of Construction,” They know they are nearing home.

Life, too, can be a bumpy journey. Detours get us off course, and signs warn us of danger ahead. The destination of the soul is of utmost importance to God, so He offers us daily guidance. He is there, watching every move we make. The question is, are we aware of Him? Can you see the flashing lights ahead? He is leading the way, and we are called to “follow His steps”

(1 Peter 2:21).