

NOVEMBER, 2017

Sir Knights:

As we pass through the Autumnal Equinox and the light of day begins to fade earlier and earlier on the way to the Solstice, we enter into what could be considered as a time of uncertainty. We are too far removed from the eager anticipation of the New Light entering the World, and barely remember the tongues of Fire and the Wind of Spirit given to us at Pentecost. It may seem that we are just “marking time” against the ever-advancing darkness until we can begin the preparations for the Watch of Advent in our spiritual lives.

What a perfect time, then, for Thanksgiving. A time when we – especially as Christian Knights – take a moment to recognize the blessings that surround us, even as darkness continues to increase day by day. None other than Brother George Washington proclaimed the first nationwide Thanksgiving celebration in 1789, marking “a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favours of Almighty God.”

Not Football.

Not “Holiday Sales” or “Pre-Black Friday Internet” shopping.

Not Overindulgent Feasting.

Prayer. And Public at that.

Surprised? I would hope not, as depending on which translation of the Bible you favor, there are over 150 verses in which the words “thanks” or “thanksgiving” are used. At times, though, I think that we as a Common People have forgotten in our prayer how to just say “thank you” to God without putting in a bit of a special request for something else to be given to us or those that think only like us, or asking for forgiveness for things we know that we should not have done through our own hubris. Simple, humble thanks for Life itself,

and all we experience each day – whether it is good or bad – seems to be lacking these days, but yet it is more important than ever. Admittedly, in the wake of such disasters as have recently been experienced by so many, or through constant exposure to the rhetoric of division that appears to have taken over “civil” discourse, it may be hard to stop and actually give true thanks – but perhaps through the seeds of such a humble act – whether private or public – Light might once again be coaxed to shine throughout the darkness. For we are wise to remember:

“From the dead, as from one who does not exist, thanksgiving has ceased; those who are alive and well sing the Lord’s praises.” (Ecclesiasticus 17:28)

Choose, therefore, to commit to living in the faith of our Lord Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. It may be difficult, seeking Light as Darkness steadily encroaches upon us, but few things of value come without trial and effort.

And let your thanks not only be for the experiences in this Life, but for the assurance of the Greater:

“Receive what the Lord has entrusted to you and be joyful, giving thanks to him who has called you to the celestial kingdoms.” (2 Esdras 2:37)

Soli Deo Gloria!



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