

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The beginning of the holiday season started with Halloween and All Saint's Day. Next came Thanksgiving and soon Christmas. As we celebrate these holy days, notice I didn't include New Years, let us think back and remember the true meaning associated with these special days.

All Saint's Day was to give thanks to all the Saints whose names were called upon to save the survivors of the plague. The worst pandemic to hit the world in 100 years. Halloween was to remind us of the horrors that preceded it.

Thanksgiving Day was created a national holiday by President Lincoln. A day set aside to give thanks to the Lord for all our blessings. We traditionally think of the legend set forth by the pilgrims at Plymouth Rock as our example in the United States. All people of all nations, religions, ethnic groups, wherever dispensed on this earth, historically have come together at harvest time to give thanks to the Lord for a good harvest, good neighbors, and good health.

Christmas, for Christians, was to remind us to give thanks to the Lord for sending his son as a beacon of light. What a wonderful gift this was for an oppressed people! We may not know for sure, what day or month he was born though the year was clear. It is appropriate that the time of the winter solstice was chosen for this celebration as most people of the northern hemisphere celebrate the return of the sun and the hope of a better and brighter future at this time of year.

Let us not forget the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah as they also give thanks to the Lord at this time for the miracle of oil that the eternal flame may never go out.

Easter, traditionally, winds up our holiday celebrations when we again give thanks to the Lord for our blessings. Let us not forget what brought Jesus to Jerusalem. It was the Passover season when Jews thank the Lord for protecting them through another terrible pandemic that killed millions.

This holiday season is like none most of us have ever seen and the world will be forever changed because of it. Because things are so different this year may it cause us to reflect on the past and relate to our children and children's children the great lessons taught by those unusual times, and these, that the Lord is in control and through faith in him we can weather whatever is put in our path.

Sisters and Brothers, during this holiday season, let us reflect on the past, but go forth, through Faith, into the future with gladness and thanksgiving in our hearts.

God Bless you all,  
Don Sulzemeier  
Worthy Grand Patron

