

FIRST LADY'S MESSAGE

WHAT IS GREATNESS?

First Lady By: Mary Jane Grauso



We attribute greatness to movie stars, sport figures, those with talent in music, and sometimes to those in politics. Great people in the world have four things most of us want: fame, money, power, and influence.

Webster defines greatness as the quality or state of being great [as in size, skill, achievement or power]. It is the ability to achieve what you choose to achieve in the area you choose to achieve it: and to achieve it with excellence and a level of mastery.

As individuals we strive to achieve a level of excellence in whatever it is we want to master. Achievement of excellence is what is instilled in us as children to be the best you can be whether it be school work, sports, art, music etc.

The world says fame, fortune, power and influence define greatness. We see and hear the philosophy of the world, and it is not long before we adopt the standards of the world rather than the standards in the **Word of God.**

We need to recognize that greatness is not defined or determined by how much money you have, the car you drive, how much power you wield, or how much better you are than someone else.

To be truly great in God's eyes, one must minister according to his ability and according to the needs of others. Christ's ministers are not to "lord it over" others. Ministering to others shows humility and indicates a desire to meet the needs of others, and to help provide for their highest good. Its visualizing the bigger picture and lending a helping hand to others, rather than being self-centered.

Jesus does not condemn our desire to become great but does not want us to become prideful or superior in attitude toward others.

Greatness in the Bible was never determined by how much money someone had or how much influence or power they claimed to have. Greatness was always given to the one who was a servant. Greatness is serving, and God is calling each of us to serve.

This kind of greatness is not forced upon you, but rather it is a choice one makes. There is only one person that can keep you from being a servant, that person is YOU.

Servanthood is not a stepping stone to greatness, because it is greatness. In other words, you are great because you serve. How would you feel if someone said to you "You are a great servant?"

When Blessed Fr. McGivney created the Knight of Columbus he did so that there would be help for those Catholics in need of assistance. He created it to lend a helping hand to Catholic widows so that their families could remain intact instead of the children being separated and sent away.

Today there are many individuals and families that are struggling due to circumstances brought about by the pandemic. It is this opportunity that we as part of the Knights of Columbus should seize and offer a helping hand to those in need in our parish and communities. Help make a difference in people's lives. Help make this world a better place for all humanity.

The State Deputy's motto "**We are servant leaders**" is asking each and every Knight to step up and lend a helping hand. God is calling YOU to serve others.

Blessings,

Mary Jane

Matthew 20 verses 26-27, "But it shall not be so among you; but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant".

Thank you Fr. Ryan Paneda of St. Francis Xavier Church in Newtowne, MD for inspiring this article.