

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Home
C'est la Vie Apartments
Newsletter ~ July 2020
A Ministry of the Marianites of Holy Cross

Independence Day

The Continental Congress of 1776 selected Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, John Adams of Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Roger Sherman of Connecticut and Robert R. Livingston of New York to draft a declaration of independence.

While we all recognize July 4th, 1776, as the day America's first Continental Congress declared independence from the British monarchy, the official vote on the matter actually happened two days earlier. However, one of the most enduring myths about Independence Day is that Congress signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The myth had become so firmly established that, decades after the event and nearing the end of their lives, even the elderly Thomas Jefferson and John Adams had come to believe that they and the other delegates had signed the Declaration on July 4th. In fact, most delegates actually signed the Declaration on August 2, 1776.

The Declaration was published in the papers on July 4th, which may be the reason that date was chosen for the holiday.

Excerpt from the Declaration of Independence

*"...We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. – That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, – That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them, shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness....
And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of **Divine Providence**, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor."*

Reflection: Remembering and celebrating what occurred in 1776 demands more than a day of parades, picnics, watching displays of fireworks, and singing of patriotic songs. While all of these are good, they are not enough.

We need to take serious time to deeply and prayerfully consider the events of 1776 and what is happening now in 2020. We see that not all Americans experience these freedoms of the Declaration as alive and well in their own lives.

As it was in the early years, so too, today our country is made up of people of various cultures, ethnic groups, belief systems, languages, and levels of education. The vision of these freedoms expressed in the Declaration is seen through different lenses depending on each person's life experiences.

Sometimes these varied visions lead to tension and unrest. Early in our history, we were spread far and wide across this vast country. There was breathing space for tensions to arise and then dissolve and for ideas to be tested over time. Today our cell phones and computers place us in easy access to one another. As a result, tensions can arise quickly wherever people gather.

These tensions often develop from an impatience with difference that leads to volatile and sometimes violent exchange. More than ever before, it is imperative that we work to create new unifying forces that will enable us to risk coming together and building community in the midst of our differences.

These forces need to be so strong and resilient to enable us to cross barriers of fear and prejudice. These forces need to encourage us to step out of our comfort zones, to listen to the voices and touch the hands that are different from ours.

If we want America to be one nation, under God for future generations, we have to firmly place our hands on the plough and work diligently toward this goal. We have to engage our hearts and minds and grasp hold to the vision of our founding fathers that all are created equal, that all are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. This is not the work of a holiday, but the task of our life times. Let us resolve to begin this work with prayer:

All loving God, Giver of life, we entrust the United States of America into Your loving care.

You are the rock on which this nation was founded.

Reclaim this land for Your glory and dwell among Your people.

We lift up to you all those who have died in preserving our freedom and all those who serve today around the world working for peace and justice.

We remember all those who live in different circumstances where war, oppression, discrimination and injustice divide and dominate their lives.

We ask that you send Your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's leaders. Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities that accompany human freedom.

You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

Remind us that true happiness is rooted in following your way of compassion and acceptance, in seeking and doing Your holy will. Amen.

☪ **Celebrating Birthdays in July** ☪

J. Ardoin	7/25	A. Jagneaux	7/25
L. Bertrand	7/30	G. Porter	7/30
M. Francois	7/14	M. Roberie	7/12
P. Helton	7/24		



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