

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



This Wednesday, July 4th, we celebrate Independence Day. This nation was founded 242 years ago by distancing itself from the British Monarchy. The signers of the Declaration of Independence deemed it a self evident truth that all men and women are endowed by their Creator with certain “unalienable rights.”

Thomas Jefferson first used that phrase in 1776 as a rebuttal to the ongoing political theory of the day: The Divine Right of Kings. i.e., chosen by God, a Monarch is accountable only to Him, and need only answer before God for his actions. This fallacy was exposed by the Declaration of Independence.

This nation is founded on unalienable rights. What does that mean? They are not alienable –they cannot be alienated or taken away, they are not transferable; they are innate.

Among these unalienable rights are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.

Life is a gift from God. The human heart begins to beat eighteen days after conception. Our life has two parts. The first is very short and is being lived now; it may last ninety, or eighty, or sixty, or twenty years...a blink in the scope of eternity. This first part of our life is just a preparation for the second part, which will last not just for some years, but forever. Every person has a Right to Life. This Right cannot be alienated, or taken away. Our life is an expression of God’s love for us.

Liberty. Freedom. The way we live the second part of our life – eternally - is determined by our use of liberty. We have Free Will. Contrary to mainstream belief, Freedom does not mean doing what we want when we want. Our Liberty can never be subjective, determined only by what pleases us, but is always linked to God the Creator and to others. All liberty, all freedom is tied to responsibility.

The Pursuit of Happiness. Happiness is not a given. It has to be pursued. We can pursue happiness in many things, but it can only truly be found in one place. All the happiness we will experience on July 4th –parades, hotdogs, baseball games and fireworks- are an expression of what true happiness is, and where it can be found: to Love God and to Love One Another. As we celebrate July 4th may we pursue the true Happiness – that of Heaven.

Happy Independence Day. Happy 4th of July!

Fr. Sean