

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



This Tuesday, July 4th, we celebrate the 241st Anniversary of the birth of our nation. This nation was founded 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.

We do not owe blind allegiance to anybody, even if they do wear a crown. The monarch is not our ultimate authority. The Creator is, who bids us pay allegiance not to the Divine Right of Kings, but to the unalienable rights of every person, created in His image and likeness.

Our 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, and it is holy, from conception to natural death. Our life is very short, and is a preparation for life after death, which will last for all eternity. Our life is an expression of God’s love for us. The way we live eternity will be determined by how we live now.

Liberty. Freedom. Contrary to mainstream belief, Freedom does not mean to do what I want when I want. Our Liberty can never be subjective, according to what pleases me, 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 needs to be pursued! The happiness we will experience on July 4th—no work, parades, hotdogs, baseball games and fireworks—is a foretaste of the real happiness promised in the Gospel; that which will no longer be pursued but experienced in its fullness in heaven. As we celebrate Independence Day, may each of experience that heaven can begin here on earth, and be grateful for the Life, Liberty and Happiness we have.

Before going to the parade, or lighting the barbeque, or putting ice in the cooler; why not come to morning Mass? The liturgy is an experience of heaven. Your parish community will be here in the church at 8:30am, waiting to celebrate with you.

Fr. Sean