

Dear Brothers and Sisters



This Sunday, July 4th, we celebrate Independence Day. On this day 245 years ago 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.” 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. All of us receive life as a gift from God. Our life begins at the moment of conception. Everyone has a right to life, including the unborn, the sick and the elderly. The life we are given by the Creator prepares us for Eternal Life. Our life is an expression of God’s love for us. Our nation was founded on this truth.

At the National Prayer Breakfast in 1994, Mother Teresa said:

I feel that the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child, a direct killing of the innocent child.

Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love but to use any violence to get what they want. That is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion. ...

If we remember that God loves us and that we can love others as He loves us, then America can become a sign of peace for the world. From here, a sign of care for the weakest of the weak – the unborn child – must go out to the world. If you become a burning light of justice and peace in the world, then really you will be true to what the founders of this country stood for. God bless you!

Liberty. Freedom. Contrary to mainstream belief, Freedom does not mean doing what we want when we want. Our Liberty can never be subjective, according to what pleases us, but must always be informed by God the Creator. The exercise of our Freedom is tied to responsibility. We have a responsibility to others, especially the weak and the spiritually poor.

The Pursuit of Happiness. Happiness has to be pursued, it not a given. We can pursue happiness in many things, but it can only truly be found in one place, in one person, in God himself. Jesus said

“Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor; the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them!

“Happy are those who mourn; God will comfort them!

“Happy are those who are humble; they will receive what God has promised!

“Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires; God will satisfy them fully!

“Happy are those who are merciful to others; God will be merciful to them!

“Happy are the pure in heart; they will see God!

“Happy are those who work for peace; God will call them his children!

“Happy are those who are persecuted because they do what God requires; the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them!

“Happy are you when people insult you and persecute you and tell all kinds of evil lies against you because you are my followers. Be happy and glad, for a great reward is kept for you in heaven. This is how the prophets who lived before you were persecuted.”

Happy 4th of July.

Fr. Sean