

RECTOR'S LETTER

July 4, 2021

Happy Fourth of July!

Dear Friends in Christ:

Anh chị em thân mến trong Chúa Kitô:

Estimados Amigos y Amigas en Cristo:

As we celebrate not only the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, but this Independence Day in our nation, we are not only grateful for our nation and the freedoms it provides, but also reminded of our faith and the responsibilities that accompany our rights—responsibilities not only to our nation, but particularly to God and our neighbor. As we celebrate, may we reflect on the fact that freedom is not ultimately meant for our enjoyment but so that we may always be free to do that which we ought—we are freed to be people of conscience, of faith, of charity, of service. We are free to do what is right.

Back at the time of the Presidential Election, I shared the Prayer for Government, composed by Bishop John Carroll, the first appointed bishop of the United States, in 1791 during the first term of our nation's first president, George Washington. Along with Bishop Carroll, on this July 4th please join me in praying for our nation once again:

“We pray Thee, O Almighty and Eternal God! Who through Jesus Christ hast revealed Thy glory to all nations, to preserve the works of Thy mercy, that Thy Church, being spread through the whole world, may continue with unchanging faith in the confession of Thy Name.

*We pray Thee, who alone art good and holy, to endow with heavenly knowledge, sincere zeal, and sanctity of life, our chief bishop, Pope **[Francis]**, the Vicar of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the government of his Church; our own bishop, **[Daniel]**, all other bishops, prelates, and pastors of the Church; and especially those who are appointed to exercise amongst us the functions of the holy ministry, and conduct Thy people into the ways of salvation.*

We pray Thee, O God of might, wisdom, and justice! Through whom authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment decreed, assist with Thy Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude the President of these United States, that his administration may be conducted in righteousness, and be eminently useful to Thy people over whom he presides; by

encouraging due respect for virtue and religion; by a faithful execution of the laws in justice and mercy; and by restraining vice and immorality. Let the light of Thy divine wisdom direct the deliberations of Congress, and shine forth in all the proceedings and laws framed for our rule and government, so that they may tend to the preservation of peace, the promotion of national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety, and useful knowledge; and may perpetuate to us the blessing of equal liberty.

We pray for his excellency, the governor of this state, for the members of the assembly, for all judges, magistrates, and other officers who are appointed to guard our political welfare, that they may be enabled, by Thy powerful protection, to discharge the duties of their respective stations with honesty and ability.

We recommend likewise, to Thy unbounded mercy, all our brethren and fellow citizens throughout the United States, that they may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the observance of Thy most holy law; that they may be preserved in union, and in that peace which the world cannot give; and after enjoying the blessings of this life, be admitted to those which are eternal.

Finally, we pray to Thee, O Lord of mercy, to remember the souls of Thy servants departed who are gone before us with the sign of faith and repose in the sleep of peace; the souls of our parents, relatives, and friends; of those who, when living, were members of this congregation, and particularly of such as are lately deceased; of all benefactors who, by their donations or legacies to this Church, witnessed their zeal for the decency of divine worship and proved their claim to our grateful and charitable remembrance. To these, O Lord, and to all that rest in Christ, grant, we beseech Thee, a place of refreshment, light, and everlasting peace, through the same Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior. Amen.”

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, we place all our trust in You. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Jeffrey L. Bame

Very Reverend Jeffrey L. Bame
Rector & Parish Administrator

