



A CALL TO CONSIDER WORDS FROM WASHINGTON, ADAMS, IREDELL, MORSE, LEE

Religious Freedom Week 2018 in the United States of America began on Friday, 22 July 2018: the Feast of Saint Thomas More and Saint John Fisher and Our Holy Redeemer in Freeport took the opportunity to invite people to *come home* and pray a Patriotic Rosary. **(Our *Fortnight For Freedom* concludes with Holy Mass on 4 July 2018 at 9:00 A.M.)**

In common with the traditional Rosary that we recite in the Parish of Our Holy Redeemer weekly with the *Legion of Mary* (call Sheila Walsh at (516) 379-9028), monthly with the *Knights of Columbus* (call Ronald Flood at (917) 821-2155) and our School of Religious Education at Family Rosary (call Deneen Vukelic at (516) 546-1057), and every Saturday at 8:30 A.M. in the church, the Patriotic Rosary consists of the prayers that so often (when the Ashes of Ash Wednesday are gone) mark us as Christians: the Lord's Prayer/Our Father, the Angelic Salutation/Hail Mary, and the Doxology/the Glory Be. Included in the Patriotic Rosary is also *the call to consider* the Mysteries in the life of our Blessed Lord and His Holy Mother that we call *Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious!* **(If it has been a while since you have prayed the Rosary, or if you have never prayed it and don't know how, why not *come home* and join us?)**

What makes the Patriotic Rosary "unique" is the assortment of intentions that are offered before each prayer is recited. We begin by offering the Apostle's Creed "for the Conversion of our Nation's Capital", and then we continue with a particular intention for each subsequent prayer; the most powerful of which being the intention that is offered before each of the fifty Hail Marys: **"We plead the Blood of Jesus over (name a different state for each Hail Mary) and every soul in that state."**

In addition to those beautiful intentions, each decade of the Patriotic Rosary is separated by a hymn that most of us were taught at home and in school; hymns that we know by heart, and when we sing along with others, make us (as we sing in a modern day patriotic song): "proud to be an American"! ***America (My Country 'Tis of Thee), the Battle Hymn of the Republic, America the Beautiful, the Star Spangled Banner, and God Bless America.***

The combination of those elements, when employed reflectively as they are in the Patriotic Rosary, truly evoke sentiments of gratitude for the gift of Faith that led America's Founding Fathers to the new world of Christopher Columbus! It was that Faith that inspired them "in the course of human events" "with a firm reliance on divine Providence", "to dissolve the political bands which connected them to Great Britain", and to establish these United States of America.

If these United States are to be a blessing for us and for *the huddled masses yearning to be free* at her borders, then it is imperative that *we the people* who profess to believe ***in God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth, and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord***, ... practice that Faith (as did the nation's founders) both in private and in the public square.

"No one can rejoice more than I do at every step the people of this great country take to preserve the Union, establish good order and government, and to render the nation happy at home and respectable abroad. No country upon earth ever had it more in its power to attain these blessings than United America. Wondrously strange then, and much to be regretted indeed would it be, were we to neglect the means, and to depart from the road which Providence has pointed us, so plainly; I cannot believe it will ever come to pass. The Great Governor of the Universe has led us too long and too far on the road to happiness and glory, to forsake us in the midst of it. By folly and improper conduct, proceeding from a variety of causes, we may now and then get bewildered; but I hope and trust that there is good sense and virtue enough left to recover the right path before we shall be entirely lost."

George Washington, 29 June 1788