

MONDAY, MAY 25, 2020



READINGS: Acts 19:1-8; Psalm 68:2-5acd, 6-7b; Jn 16:29-33

Dear Parishioners:

Today is a solemn day of Remembrance when we pay honor to the men and women of our nation who gave up their lives in the cause of our freedom. One of the greatest attributes of our nation is the sheer goodness and generosity of our people to put themselves in harm's way to defend others who cannot defend themselves and to protect the cherished liberties we as Americans hold so dear. Since that first shot heard 'round the world' on Lexington Green in 1775 until today, America holds high the torch of liberty to shine light in a world often darkened by despotism. This is who we are as a people, regardless of the often times incompetent arrogance of our political "leaders." What American, born or naturalized, who is a true patriot and loves our country does not feel a sense of pride and belonging when we see our nation's flag proudly displayed? We feel that pride because it is the symbol of the sheer goodness embodied by the people of this country. Someone once said that when we see our flag waving in the breeze it is not the wind that causes it to do so, but the last breath of every man and woman who gave their lives in sacrifice for our nation. Put the rivalries aside. Stop the mud-slinging, the slander, the partisan bickering that imprisons our nation's soul. They did not die for that! They died because they knew we had the best to offer that the world has ever seen and expect us to carry it forward.

Theodore O'Hare wrote a moving poem entitled "Bivouac of the Dead" to honor his friends who fell in the Mexican-American War. It is always appropriate for Memorial Day. Two stanzas of that poem are offered here today:

The muffled drum's sad roll has beat the soldier's last tattoo;
No more on life's parade shall meet that brave and fallen few.
On Fame's eternal camping-ground their silent tents are spread,
And Glory guards, with solemn round, the bivouac of the dead.

'Twas in that hour his stern command called to a martyr's grave
The flower of his beloved land, the nation's flag to save.
By rivers of their fathers' gore his first-born laurels grew,
And well he deemed the sons would pour their lives for glory too.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, we humbly thank you for this good land which you have given us for our inheritance. Give eternal rest and peace to the brave men and women whom we honor today, who paid the ultimate price of their lives for the freedom we now enjoy. We pray that we may always prove to be a people mindful of your love and kindness, and worthy of their sacrifice. Bless this land with honest labor and true patriotic devotion. Save us from violence, discord and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Preserve and increase our liberties and fashion into one united nation this people of many races and tongues. Give us leaders who can see the distant vision of our greatness and who are willing to work together for the good of our nation and the world. Fill with the spirit of wisdom those to whom we entrust the authority of government, that they may seek justice and peace. In time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness and, in times of trouble, do not allow our trust and hope in You to fail. Bless us and be with us, now and in the years to come. As always, we make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Riddle Me This:

Yesterday's riddle: I have two arms, but no fingers or hands; I have two legs, but only use them to stand; I carry things for you but you must carry me, Help me up a little bit and I'll make your job easy. What am I? (ANSWER: A wheelbarrow.)

Today's riddle: A rock group with four members, each of whom's deceased; People still come to see us, even though an album was never released. What am I? (Answer tomorrow.)

Very Rev. Msgr. Dennis L. Mikulanic

San Rafael Parish

17252 Bernardo Center Drive, San Diego, CA 92128 ~ Phone: (858)487-4314 Fax: (858)487-1498

www.sanrafaelparish.org ~ Facebook: @SanRafaelCatholicChurch