

## **God Bless America, Again!**

The 4th of July, 2012 ... the day when people will gather all over the United States of America to celebrate Independence and the birth of our nation. Fireworks will light up the sky, families will gather and we will all pause to remember that courageous Declaration, signed on this date which proclaimed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights - that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men"

The Declaration of Independence was the birth certificate of the United States of America. The words are still memorized by at least some of our schoolchildren and can bring a tear to the oldest American eye with little effort. The principles they communicate have informed our history as a free people and inspired our neighbors in other parts of the world to stand up against all forms of tyranny. As we reflect upon the text this weekend we need to remember that our forebears were not declaring their independence from Divine Providence. Rather, they were trusting in the primacy of the Governance of God over their own lives and their noble undertaking.

The courageous men who signed this document were influenced by the great treasury brought to Western Civilization by the Christian Churches. They believed there actually were truths to be held because they recognized the author of those truths and that the author has made those truths self evident. Those truths include the existence of unalienable rights which are given to all men and women by a Creator. They believed that those truths and those rights can be discerned by all men and women because they are revealed by the Natural Law which is written on all human hearts and is a participation in God's law.

On this day, let us again join as a Lakes Region community in celebrating the promises of the Declaration of Independence. Like millions throughout the United States of America, we will pause to thank God for the privilege of living in this Nation. Then, we will rededicate ourselves to working for the more perfect application of the principles which inspired the founders. They beckon every succeeding generation to sacrifice again to secure the blessings of liberty for all.

No matter how diverse the American founders were in their religious convictions, they all affirmed the truths this Declaration proclaimed and recognized that the unalienable rights which flowed from them were given not by civil government but endowed by God. The implication is obvious. On our 236<sup>th</sup> birthday, as one nation under God, we should celebrate our independence by reaffirming our dependence on God and proclaim together again that **we hold these truths!** May God Bless America, again!

Very Reverend Dennis J. Audet  
St. Charles Borromeo Church  
Meredith, NH