



From the Pastor's Desk

Well, it's the Fourth of July week. This means that it's the middle of summer and time for cookouts, picnics, fireworks, and parades. It's a time for getting together with family and friends to celebrate and have fun. It's a time to slow down and relax. As you gather to celebrate, please take some time to remember why our fourth of July is just a bit different than July 4th in the rest of the world.

After all, the fourth of July is Independence Day for the United States. It's more than a summer party, its a celebration about who we are as Americans. It's a day to remember what we stand for, and be proud of the country in which we live. This great nation is not perfect, and we have our problems. We can, however, overcome those obstacles. That is what we are founded on, a people who can confront and solve our differences. We are a nation that can achieve and defend what we hold up as important and essential. The first Americans believed that what was happening around them was not right or good. The designers of the Declaration of Independence and this nation believed that there are certain "God given rights" that are essential to all human beings, no matter who they are.

Today, there are those who would have us believe that there are no "God given rights or absolutes," but the tides are changing. Americans are realizing, once again, the value of human life, morals, and faith. We are realizing that others cannot dictate what our basic beliefs and moral standards should be. These beliefs, we find, are self-evident; that we are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights. The right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are essential. The taking away of these rights from anyone and/or eliminating our connection to their source will not be tolerated. We are once again calling out for independence from a society plagued with violence, death, immorality, and lack of purpose and respect for life. We are once again calling out to the higher good.

We are entering a new era in the history of our world and our nation. Our relationships with other nations, groups and other societies call us to remember our roots as a people. We are a nation begun on higher principles and values that transcend this world to a higher power. We are a united nation "under God." We are a diverse nation of many faiths and cultures, but we celebrate the essentials of what we are as human beings created by a loving God. We celebrate with continued hope that we will continue to address, overcome, and conquer the problems that challenge us now and in the future.

Fr. Fred Tomzik

