

May you have a Blessed July 4th with Family and Friends. In this time of confusion about our national identity I leave you with these two thoughts:

1. From Saint John Paul II: (from his meeting with the President of the United States on September 10, 1987):

“Among the many admirable values of this nation there is one that stands out in particular. It is freedom. The concept of freedom is part of the very fabric of this nation as a political community of free people. Freedom is a great gift, a great blessing of God.”

2. From the Dairy of Saint Faustina (Divine Mercy message of Jesus):

-Prayer for Our Native Country:

Meditation:

“Once, after an adoration for our country, a pain pierced my soul, and I began to pray in this way: “Most merciful Jesus, I beseech You through the intercession of Your Saints, and especially the intercession of Your dearest Mother who nurtured You from childhood, bless my native land. I beg You, Jesus, look not on our sins, but on the tears of little children, on the hunger and cold they suffer. Jesus, for the sake of these innocent ones, grant me the grace that I am asking of You for my country.” At that moment, I saw the Lord Jesus, His eyes filled with tears, and He said to me, You see, My daughter, what great compassion I have for them. Know that it is they who uphold the world (*Diary*, 286).”

My Prayer Response:

Lord Jesus, give us a great concern for our native country. Hear our prayer for those who attempt to live without You or those afflicted with poverty and injustice. Especially protect the children — the innocent ones — in our secularized nation.

May we continue to pray for our Nation this July 4th. In fact the Patroness of the United States is : Mary the Immaculate Conception...PRAY FOR US

Amen

Father Vic Gournas