

HURRAY FOR FREEDOM!

A couple of years back I had the opportunity to go on a class trip with the sixth grade here at Sacred Heart to Philadelphia. Philadelphia is certainly what can be called a very historical city. On that one day, we viewed Betsy Ross's house (she sewed the first flag), the grave of Benjamin Franklin and the Liberty Bell.

The highlight of the tour in my estimation was the trip to Independence Hall. It was in that very hall on July 2nd (not July 4th) as the guide told us, that the Declaration of Independence was voted on and approved. Actually, though, it was not really signed until a month later!

No matter what day it actually happened, we Americans declared our independence from the British Crown. That is what we celebrate this Monday on the Fourth of July with all the fireworks, parades and picnics. The Declaration of Independence is a remarkable document written by Thomas Jefferson.

In the second paragraph, we read these famous words: "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."

Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness - three goals that our founding fathers envisioned for America two hundred and thirty five years ago. We might ask ourselves if these lofty goals are being realized in our current American society.

First of all, *The Right To Life*. That is the most basic of all rights - the right to "BE". And yet sadly, the United States Supreme Court enshrined into law in 1973 the infamous Roe vs Wade decision which made abortion legal in this land. Since that time, statistics tell us that almost 50 million abortions have been performed in the United States. 50 million lives snuffed out; 50 million pre-born children deprived of this basic right!

As the late President Ronald Reagan once said, "simple morality dictates that unless and until someone can prove the unborn human is not alive, we must give it the benefit of the doubt and assume that it is (alive) and that it should be entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Makes sense doesn't it?

As a society we should examine our conscience and reflect upon why morally speaking we are

depriving the most vulnerable and defenseless, the basic right first delineated in the Declaration of Independence long ago!

Secondly, *Liberty*. Liberty means freedom. But too often freedom in our land today means the ability to do whatever I want. Actually, liberty or freedom means the ability to do what we ought to do in observance with the Laws of God. We should seek our freedom within the Laws of God and not outside them.

Today so many people want to do "their own thing" without reference to moral standards. Perhaps the whole gay marriage issue is reflective of that mistaken notion of freedom as the license to do whatever suits me. That kind of "freedom" will only bring chaos and disorder into our society.

The lyrics of the song, "America, the Beautiful" put it so well, "America, America - God shed His grace on thee - confirm thy soul in self control - thy liberty in law!"

Finally, *The Pursuit Of Happiness*. The United States is one of the most prosperous nations on the face of this earth. Most of our forefathers who came to this country were seeking what has been called the "American Dream". And for the most part, they found it here. Although the streets were not paved in gold, we have a standard of living here in the USA that is the envy of many in the world.

But the Pursuit of Happiness should not be just equated with the accumulation of wealth and material goods. May we use our riches not selfishly but rather with a view to helping those less fortunate around us - the poor, the hungry and the marginalized in our society.

On this July Fourth let us pray for our nation that it might truly reflect the ideals of the founders and the rights they espoused!

Sincerely in Christ! Father Jerome



CCD registration for the school year 2011-2012 will be on going on all summer long. For further information please call the CCD office at 718-448-1536 and leave a message. Please send your re-registration forms in.



Kids Praise Choir: (grades 1-5) See you July 3rd 11:30AM Loft!
Family Choir (ages Newborn - 120) July 3rd 11:30AM Mass Loft
 Bring the entire family!

Parish Choir: (ages 10-120) See you in the fall!

Melody Choir: (ages 10-120) no rehearsals! Just come on up & help sing the glorious melodies of our liturgies...see you July 3rd - loft 11:15AM

Traveling Choir (ages 8-100) Come sing for your DVD-July 3rd 11:15AM!

Put Away a Hymnbook Tis the season to put away a hymnbook! What does that mean? Look inside the back cover of the book to the small label at the top that says which pew, & rack the book goes (rack one is on pew # 2) - be aware of left side/right side (facing altar). Heads up about the Hymnbook Party sometime in August or September to bring many of us together to organize all the rows _ "many hands, light work!" See you there!

Traveling Choir: I have you DVD gift from M.C.I. -come sing for your supper (DVD)! See you 11:15, July 3rd!

Join a Choir! Put away a hymnbook! Fill your jar



Sacred Heart Basketball Clinic - a free basketball clinic will be offered to all boys and girls in grades 3-8 on Thursdays from June 30th until Aug 4th. The girls clinic will run from 5-6:30PM and the boys clinic will run from 6:30-8PM. If you have an questions please feel free to visit our brand new website at www.sacredheartbasketball.com

C.Y.O. News

If you are interested in coaching a **Sacred Heart CYO** basketball team next season (2011-2012) please contact Mike Sanborn msanborndd@aol.com or Jeff Franzreb jefffranzreb@aol.com for a coach's application.



Sacred Heart goes to the Holy Land!

Fr Deo asks all parishioners to join him on this fantastic once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage! The tour will be in July or August of 2012 for 7 days. Please see Fr Deo for more information.

The Archdiocese Drug Abuse Prevention Program (ADAPP) has an opening for a secretary/receptionist, 2 days per week in our Staten Island office. Candidate must have excellent computer skills. Applicant must be self-starter with an ability to work independently. Responsibilities include: phone reception, drafting correspondence, and preparation of monthly reports. Fax a resume to: Lois Popler, Regional Supervisor 718-273-1085, or send it to ADAPP, 950 Castleton Ave, 2nd Floor, S.I. , N.Y. 10310



Bingo - St. Joseph-St. Thomas will have bingo every Tuesday & Thursday starting on July 5th thru July 28th. For more information call 356-0294.

Save the Date !



Sacred Heart Alumni Dinner Dance will be held on **Friday, September 30th** from 7:30 - 11:30PM at the Staaten. Please join fellow classmates for as night out together to remember our great memories of Sacred Heart School. For further information or to make reservations contact Sheila Whalen Watson at 718-815-5977 or Sheila.watson23@hotmail.com



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