



# Stronica Proboszcza



## The Pastor's Page

July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Month of the Most Precious Blood*

Rev. Mark A. Borkowski

FmarkB@aol.com

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Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!  
Praised be Jesus Christ!

### Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup> – Feast of the Precious Blood

Devotion to the Precious Blood is as old as Christianity. As Catholics we believe that the Blood of Christ is precious because it is Christ's own great ransom paid for the redemption of mankind. As there was to be no remission of sin without the shedding of blood, we hold that the "Incarnate Word" not only offered His life for the salvation of the world, but He offered to give up His life by a bloody death, and to hang bloodless, soulless and dead upon the Cross for the salvation of humanity. Jesus is said to have given His life – His Blood – for the sake of all humanity, regardless of any religious division or difference in belief, atoning for every form of sin. The Precious Blood is a call to repentance and reparation. The early Fathers say that the Church was born from the pierced side of Christ, and that the sacraments were brought forth through His Blood. It is a symbol of mankind's redemption. But we, too, must share in sufferings; as St. Paul tells Timothy, "All who want to live a life of piety in Christ Jesus will have to suffer persecution

### Tuesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> – St. Thomas the Apostle

Thomas was born in Galilee. The gospels don't say what he did for a living or how Jesus invited him to become a disciple. He was the twin brother of St. James and was therefore called Didymus. Glimpses of Thomas in the Gospel of St. John show a man who liked to believe the worst so that he would never be disappointed.

One example of this occurred after Jesus' friend Lazarus died. Jesus decided to go into Judea, even though the authorities there were threatening to arrest Him. This frightened the apostles. Possibly their lives would be in danger, too. But Thomas said to the others, "Let us go, that we may die with Him."

The Gospel of St. John doesn't explain why Thomas was the only disciple not there when the risen Christ first appeared to the others. Later, when they told him what had happened, Thomas said he would never believe their story unless he saw and touched Jesus' wounds. A week later, Jesus graciously offered Thomas peace. He made it clear that he knew and understood Thomas's doubt. Thomas responded, "My Lord and my God!"

There are various ideas about where St. Thomas preached after the descent of the Holy Spirit. One tradition says that he did his mission work in India. To this day a group of people living along the Malabar Coast call themselves "Christians of St. Thomas." Records show that this community is very old. They claim that their ancestors were baptized by St. Thomas himself, therefore he has been declared the patron saint of India. St. Thomas the Apostle was martyred sometime around the year 53 A.D.

# God Bless America, Our Home Sweet Home!

Once again we celebrate the birth of our nation this Tuesday on July 4<sup>th</sup>! Although we do not usually consider Independence Day a religious holiday, without a doubt there is a definite religious significance to the occasion. We proudly commemorate the courage of the founding fathers of our country, which allowed them to be faithful to the inspiration they received from God, and to establish a new and free nation. The founding fathers WERE religious men! They all believed in God! There was not an atheist among them! They sincerely believed that the source of our human dignity and our freedom came from God Almighty, the Creator of us all. It is very disappointing these days when the particular lack of faith of this generation is projected upon the state of mind and heart of the founders of the United States, as a justification for a Godless way of life and blatantly immoral lifestyles so popular today. This was definitely NOT what the founders of the nation had in mind when they separated Church from State! For our nation's founders, faith in God went well beyond a gentle hope that America would receive heavenly blessings. Their writings show that our early leaders held a stronger belief: God manifested His will in history, and a nation that honestly sought to conform itself to the dictates of the Almighty would enjoy His blessings. Certainly they were not alone in that belief; but as they witnessed the optimistic energy of the American people and the success of the new form of government, they concluded that this nation had indeed been greatly blessed – and they gave their thanks to God. During times of distress and peril, they prayed for forgiveness and deliverance. They turned to God in good times and bad. Their belief in God's blessing on America can be found in their own words: *The second day of July 1776 (when independence was approved by the Continental Congress, two days before the final wording of the declaration could be resolved) will be the most memorable date in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other from this time forward forever more...* These are the words of our nation's second president John Adams from a letter he sent to his wife Abigail on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1776. Though he was off by two days, most of his prophecy has come to pass. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July is a day we enjoy celebrating. The weather is warm. It is a day off from work. There are parades and fireworks, picnics and sporting events. But to be completely faithful to the spirit of the day there should also be a moment of silent prayer (*or maybe even spoken public prayer!*) thanking God for the great nation that is ours and the strength necessary to be faithful to the many sacrifices that were made over the last 241 years to keep it strong and free!

*Happy Independence Day! Enjoy the free day by using your freedom from work to spend time with family & friends and to refresh body & soul!*

Have you ever wondered what became of the fifty-six men who signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4<sup>th</sup> in 1776? Five signers were captured by the British as traitors and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army, another had two sons captured. Nine of the fifty-six fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War. They signed and pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. What kind of men were they? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags. Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward. Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward,

Rutledge, and Middleton. At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt. Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months. John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their thirteen children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year, he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later, he died from exhaustion and a broken heart. Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild-eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." They gave us a free and independent America. The history books never told us a lot about what happened in the Revolutionary War. We didn't just fight the British. We were British subjects at that time and we fought our own government!

Some of us take these liberties so much for granted, but we shouldn't. So, take a few minutes while enjoying your 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not too much to ask for the price they paid. Remember that freedom is never free! Be proud of our country and the many people who have worked so hard and sacrificed so much to make the United States what it is today. It is a wonderful country and the many, many people from other nations throughout the world who still desperately try to enter this country are proof of that! Patriotism is still very fashionable and appropriate! The 4<sup>th</sup> of July means much more than just beer, picnics and baseball games.

*"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breath free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

Inscribed at the base of the Statue of Liberty, words of Emma Lazarus

## July is a Hot Month!

Unfortunately we do not enjoy the blessing of airconditioning in our parish church, and the very hot days of Ordinary Time are without a doubt here! I know it is now that time of year when a person might be tempted to not want to travel from air-conditioned home, by way of air-conditioned car to **un-air-conditioned** church but Sunday remains an **obligatory** day of worshipping God in Church, at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. It is worth the effort!

Besides this, there are also summer vacations and travel that make it easy to begin justifying one's absence from church at this time of the year. But it is the priest's job to remind the faithful that we simply must adjust our social lives so as to include worship of God weekly. If not, nothing really makes sense in the big picture of our life and we damage our relationship with our Creator. To put it bluntly, **it is still a sin to miss Mass on Sunday!**

So when you feel tempted to skip Mass "just this Sunday!" **JUST SAY NO!** And come and join your fellow parishioners in our parish church! And if you travel, take time to plan on attending Mass wherever you may be on the Lord's Day. In this age of technology it is NOT difficult to do!  
<http://www.masstimes.org>

## **Now We Turn Our Thoughts to the FESTIVAL!**

As every good parishioner knows, our annual parish festival is scheduled for the weekend of August 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds of the festival are an important part of the annual budget of the parish. Last year profits from the festival decreased dramatically due to weather and other problems. The festival draws a great many people to the parish for that weekend and is an opportunity for beneficial public relations work to be done for Our Lady of the Scapular.

The success of the festival depends upon the involvement of the parishioners, after all this is your parish. It will ultimately be what you make of it. And so I am asking for your generosity in a multitude of different ways. Let us start with material generosity. The festival is a very costly affair to put on and so in the past many people have made cash donations to cover the expenses, of things like the rental of tents, tables and chairs, portable toilettes, and trailers, the cost of beer and soft drinks, advertising and printing expenses, the enormous cost of food and the substantial cost of live entertainment. If you make a donation for these things it is greatly appreciated. Other forms of generosity are actually going out and purchasing items for the festival such as, non-perishable food items for the Pantry Shopper Booth, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom linens, toys and stuffed animals, and "bottles of cheer". These donations make our festival more and more attractive to those attending and spending money here.

Our festival is a big one! And we all know that in order for it to run smoothly many hands are needed to do the work. We must all face the reality that our parish is smaller in membership than it once was. Perhaps in times gone by it was possible for a number of parishioners to say, "Well, they have plenty of workers, I just want to go and enjoy the festival and have a good time." This is not the case today. We have a great many parishioners who have faithfully worked every festival since #1! Most of these folks are so much older now that they simply cannot really do all that they once did and all they would still like to do. I see them out there still giving it their all! I want to appeal now to another crowd, a younger one. Those that live a very hectic and busy lifestyle today and perhaps do not consider service to their parish all that important. WE NEED YOU! We need people who love their parish dearly and express that love in faithful service, even when it's not particularly fun or convenient. Doing this is what it means to be a real parishioner and member of this community. Of course it is much easier to just come to Mass on Sunday and that's it. These are part time parishioners and this mind set jeopardizes the health of the parish.

### **Parish Picnic – Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup> - 5:30 PM in our Parish Hall**

On Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, two days before the feast day of the Patroness of our parish we will celebrate her feast day at Mass. Afterward, once again there will be a "picnic," this time in our parish hall. In order to subsidize the cost of this dinner, there will be a five dollar charge for those who attend. Barbecued Pork, Chicken, and sausages will be served, as well as non-alcoholic drinks. Those attending are kindly asked to bring either a side dish for the meal or a dessert.

*Tickets available at the parish office - \$5 per person Music by the Varitones*

*If someone says something unkind about me,  
I must live so that no one will believe it.*