

Did you know . . .

Thoughts On Independence Day

On Wednesday, July 4, our nation celebrates Independence Day. The following article, taken in its entirety, was written by Bishop James D. Conley, Bishop of the Diocese of Lincoln, NE and appeared in the January 2013 issue of *Magnificat*. It has a good message for us today.

“In his powerful and profound *Letter from the Birmingham Jail*, Dr. Martin Luther King said the Constitution and Declaration together form the ‘great wells of democracy’ that express ‘the most sacred values in our Judeo-Christian heritage.’ King was right. Our country was not founded to be a theocracy. But our country is also unimaginable without reference to the values of our Judeo-Christian heritage. America’s founded shared common belief that religion mattered—not only for the private salvation and welfare of individuals, but also for the commonweal of the nation.

Charles Carrol, the declaration’s only catholic signatory, put it well in a letter to James McHenry, one of the signers of the Constitution: Without morals a republic can not subsist any length of time; they therefore who are decrying the Christian religion, whose morality is so sublime and pure...are undermining the solid foundation of morals, the best security for the duration of free governments...

America’s future depends today, as it always has, on the choices that faithful citizens will make. And that means rediscovering the basic religious and Christian values that are contained in our Declaration of Independence. It means living out our beliefs with what the declaration calls a ‘firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence.’ And through our witness to our beliefs, and by God’s grace, we can help restore our national soul.”

Judy Pearson

