

One Nation Under God

Fr. Bill McCarthy, MSA

One Nation Under God. What does this mean?

- It means that we recognize this land, this flag and this government as a gift from God to be used for His purposes.
- It means that we did not become the land of the free and the home of the brave by blind faith or a happy set of circumstances. Rather, that a wise and loving God was hovering over us from the very hour of our conception.
- It means that Columbus, under the direct inspiration of the Holy Spirit, discovered this land and took a cross in his own hands, planted it in the soil, fell upon his knees and took possession of this land for God.
- It means that faith in God guided the Mayflower as it chartered the treacherous Atlantic. It means that when our nation was born, that our founding fathers established this land upon the laws of nature and the laws of nature's God, words that we find in our Bill of Rights.
- It means that as George Washington, our first president, in his farewell address stated, that religion and morality were the *twin towers* of America and that anyone who would attempt to destroy these could not be a loyal American.

He further stated, "Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits and humbly implore His protection and favor." It means that our founding fathers stated, "for the support of this declaration of Independence, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

- It means that as Noah Webster stated, "The religion which has introduced civil liberty in our nation is a religion of Christ and His apostles. To this we owe our free constitutions of government."
- It means that when old Ben Franklin rose to address the Continental Congress, he fully grasped the source of this nation's existence when he stated, "I have lived, sirs, a long, long time and the longer I live the more convincing proof I see of this truth that God governs in the affairs of men. If the sparrow cannot fall without His notice, can this nation rise with His help? For we have been assured in sacred writings that unless the Lord builds the house they labor in vain that built it. I call for three days of fasting and prayer asking God's blessings upon our deliberations."
- It means that as Patrick Henry stated, "It cannot be emphasized too clearly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists but by Christians, not on religions but on the gospel of Jesus Christ."

- It means that our founding fathers had no intention of separating state from God. From church, yes; but from God never. That is why our Constitution reads, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." By this they stated, "By our form of government, the Christian religion is the established religion; and all sects and denominations of Christians are placed on the same equal footing." (Runkel vs. Winemiller, Supreme Court, 1799)

Our Supreme Court would go on to say in its most precedented statement, "The laws and institutions of this nation must necessarily be based upon and embody the life and teachings of the redeemer of mankind. It is impossible that it should be otherwise" (Supreme Court, 1892).

- It means that the New Primer--the first textbook for our public schools, that served from 1690 and for the next 200 years as the textbook for American schools--was read like a Bible:
 - A. A wise son makes a glad father.
 - B. Better is little with fear of the Lord than great treasure.
 - C. Come unto Christ all ye that labor and are heavy laden and He will give you rest.
- It means that the first 108 colleges in this country were all Christian schools, including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, William and Mary, and so forth.
- It means that as John Quincy Adams stated that "the birthday of our nation is indissolubly linked with the birthday of our Savior." That is why the Fourth of July is next to Christmas, our most joyous and most venerated festival.
- It means that as John Jay, the original Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, stated, "that Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty as well as the privilege of our Christian nation to prefer Christians for the rulers."
- It means that as Abraham Lincoln stated, "It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to owe their independence upon the overruling power of God and to recognize this divine truth announced in the holy scriptures and proven in all history, that those nations are only blessed whose God is the lord."
- It means that as Woodrow Wilson stated that "the Bible is the one supreme source of revelation of the meaning of life, the nature of God, and the spiritual nature and need of men, the only God of life which leads the Spirit of peace and salvation."
- It means that as John Kennedy stated, "Let us go forward asking God's blessing, but realizing here on earth God's work is truly our own."
- It means that as George W. Bush, Jr. stated, "That neither death, nor life nor angels nor principalities can separate us from the love of God."
- It means that we are met in a great battlefield testing whether this nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure. We must confess with humble hearts that before September 11th of this very year, a day that will live on in infamy, much of America, had forgotten God.

Like Nazi Germany, Communist Russia, and Fascist Italy, we had declared that religion, prayer and God had no place in our government; and that human life was no longer sacred. This in this land that still believes these truths to be self evident that all men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable, first and foremost the right to life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural life.

Communism was guilty of murdering 100 million people, and so have we – through abortion. Twelve million Jewish people have been killed, twice as many as Nazi Germany. Twenty million black people, double those killed in the slave trade have been lost through abortion. And 50 million women, in a country that boasts of women's rights, have been denied life. How can anybody be a feminist if they do not grant a woman's right to exist. For 'to be, or not to be,' that is always the ultimate question.

Before 9/11 – a day that will divide our modern history – America was rolling in luxuries, reveling in excesses, rollicking in pleasure, revolting in morals, and rotting in sin. We had become a society in which passions had become riderless horses, in which pornography and prostitution went unchecked; in which there was a desolation of decency, wherein love had become a jungled emotion and lust was exalted to lordship.

Now, all that has changed. America is once again at prayer. Our president, our Senators and Representatives, our governors, our mayors, our firefighters, our police officers, our nurses, our doctors, our people have been at prayer. Once again we sing, "God Bless America." From the steps of our nations capitol to our White House, from Yankee Stadium to the ballparks of America. God, once again, has our attention. He still warns us that it is sheer folly to suppose that the strength and security of our country lies in our military might, our diplomatic skills, our industrial prowess, or our scientific ingenuity. Our real defense as a nation is in Him and in the convictions, character and commitments of those who are willing to follow Him.

Our forefathers warned that our Constitution was good only so long as the Lord is our God. The second verse of our national anthem, so proudly sung, still reads, "Blessed with victory and peace may this heaven-rescued land praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation. Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just, and this be our motto, 'In God Be Our Trust.' And the Star Spangled Banner, in triumph shall wave, o're the land of the free and the home of the brave."

God is promising us, "If my people were called by my name will humble themselves and pray, I will hear from heaven, I will restore their nation, and heal their land" (2 Chron 7:14). And, "I will make their enemies to be at peace with them."

We are returning to the faith of our fathers and becoming, once again, a nation under God. Something marvelous and wonderful is happening in the soul of our nation. The choice is clearer than ever. It is repent or perish, revival or ruin, Christ or chaos.

The real terrorists are not simply those of the Middle East, but those who have, for three generations, been destroying the twin towers of our country – religion and morality, as Washington said. The question of the hour is: Will we be, once again, a nation under God with our enemies at peace with us, or still under attack? From without, yes, but more fearfully, from within. Under God or under attack? The choice is clear. Which way America? Up or down?

My Father's House

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Prayer Strategies for Changing America and our World

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1. Thank and praise God for who He is and for the privilege of cooperating with Him in the exciting ministry. Then thank Him for what He's already done in the nations to which He has directed us.
2. Pray for an unprecedented outpouring of the Holy Spirit in revival power to come upon God's people.
3. Pray for God to unite the Body of Christ and family of man, Catholics with Protestants, Christians with Moslems, blacks with whites, young with the old, men with women, believers with unbelievers.
4. We need to humble ourselves before God and acknowledge that the body of Christ in our nation has sinned. We have allowed materialism, promiscuity, violence, and disobedience to overwhelm our land.
5. Try to attend daily Mass and make Eucharistic Holy Hours.
6. Pray for leaders.
7. Be willing to fast on Fridays.
8. Pray that terrorists may be brought to justice as swiftly as possible with a very minimum of violence.
9. Never allow hatred, bitterness or violence to permeate your heart. We are to overcome hatred with love and violence with forgiveness and peace.
10. Pray that the Word of God, once again, will be given its rightful place as the basis for the formation of just laws, and as the standard for moral values and behavior.
11. Pray that God will stir His people to see that obedience is the key to the Christian life.
12. Pray for the fear of the Lord to permeate people of all faiths, because the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge, and it means to hate evil (Prov 8:13).
13. Meditate upon Scripture and the New Catechism each day.
14. Pray for the children and youth.
15. Pray that God will send laborers into the fields to form apostolates and circles of prayer.
16. Ask God to stir spiritual leaders to teach people about the need to help the poor and needy.
17. Pray for great spiritual awakening to come upon the unconverted, motivating them to seek God.
18. Ask God to name the major principalities over the nations and cities and wage spiritual warfare as directed by the Holy Spirit.
19. Finish by praising God, declaring faith in His promise.
20. Keep on persisting in intercession. Don't let up.