

# Strona Proboszcza

## The Pastor's Page

July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rev. Mark A. Borkowski

*Month of the Precious Blood*

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Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!  
Praised be Jesus Christ!

### Dear Parishioners & Friends of Sweetest Heart of Mary,

God's Blessing to one and all as we once again celebrate the birth of our nation 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 great nation that is ours and the strength necessary to be faithful to the many sacrifices that were made over the last 226 years to keep it strong and free!

God Bless America, Our Home Sweet Home!