

A Pastor's Perspective

May 30, 2021 Bulletin



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

First of all, I want to express how very grateful I am that some of the COVID-19 restrictions have now been lifted, allowing us to meet in person once again at daily and Sunday Mass as a Parish Family. This past year has been a struggle, but it has also given us a chance to reflect on all the freedoms we enjoy in America, and how fragile the fruits of our liberty can be.

This Sunday falls on the weekend of **Memorial Day**, a time when we cherish the memories of all men and women – especially those in our own families, parish and community – who have died in the cause of protecting and defending our freedoms.

Did you know that since the year 2000 a National Moment of Remembrance has been designated for 3:00 p.m. each Memorial Day? At this time, all Americans are asked to observe a moment of silence and prayer in reflection of the supreme sacrifices of the deceased defenders of our liberty.

Many are honoring these heroes with a visit to their local cemeteries this weekend, including our own parish cemetery in Bangor. Thanks to our dedicated cemetery staff and volunteers, Mount Pleasant Catholic Cemetery is an exquisite garden of remembrance for our departed loved ones at all times of the year. My hat goes off to the many volunteers who, in preparation for Memorial Day, have helped place flags at the grave markers of all veterans buried in this holy place.

In addition, we can pray for all who are currently serving in the armed forces. Might I also humbly suggest that we support them in any way we can? Volunteer to help at a local Veterans' organization; mow a lawn or fix a meal for a neighbor who has a family member deployed far from home. There are countless opportunities for each of us to help our service men and women to know how deeply they are appreciated.

If you have ever visited any of the church halls in our parish churches, you may have noticed the Memorial Flags, mounted on the wall at each location. They were placed there in 2016, on behalf of the President, the Department of Defense and a Grateful Nation. A placard below each flag notes that it was presented "in recognition of the faithful, honorable and at times heroic service" given by parishioners who served in the military and fought in America's wars, honoring in a special way "those who made the ultimate sacrifice."

Our continuing prayer and dedication to our military heroes – both living and dead – can be a true reflection of the words proclaimed by Jesus himself long ago: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (*John 15:13*)

Happy Memorial Day, and may God bless all who have served and are serving our great Nation – and their loving families!

Peace and blessings,

Msgr. Andrew