

+++ *From the Pastor* +++
Sunday, November 9, 2014
The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

God Bless all of our Veterans

Veteran's Day, Tuesday, November 11, is a very important day of the year in the United States as we honor the men and women who have served, and continue to serve, our country in the Armed Forces. This day always takes on greater significance during times of war. Thus, today we pray for an end to all war and violence throughout the world and we pray that our brothers and sisters serving our country in Afghanistan, Iraq and other dangerous places will be kept safe from all harm.

Veteran's Day provides us with the opportunity to remember that it is ordinary men and women who fight our nation's wars. We owe it to all of those who are fighting now, and who have fought in the past, to pray that God will watch over them and keep them safe from all harm. We pray for their families and we pray that very soon we will live in peace with all men.

Many men and women have returned from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, as they have from previous wars, severely wounded in mind, body and spirit. They certainly deserve our prayers, our gratitude and our love and support for the sacrifices they have made in service to our country. Among other things, our veterans deserve the very best medical care that we can provide for them.

It is easy to take for granted all of the many blessings that Almighty God has bestowed upon our country throughout our relatively short history. It is easy to take for granted the many, many sacrifices that our brothers and sisters, our fellow citizens, are making for you and me so that we can carry on our lives in peace and security. So it is that Veteran's Day is also a good day to pause and thank Almighty God for His countless blessings and to ask Him to help us to be a people worthy of the sacrifices being made for us. We need to ask God for His mercy for our failure to keep His Commandments and we ask Him for the strength and the courage that we need to enact laws which will protect the sacredness of human life from the moment of conception until natural death.

Our servicemen and women are working for our country in a noble way. We, in turn, must strive to be a noble and just people worthy of the sacrifices that they are making for our nation. Above all else, this means becoming a people who support and defend our right to life. For without life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are moot points. Without life there is nothing worth defending or protecting.

May God bless all of our veterans and richly reward them for their service to our country.