



Freedom

This coming Tuesday we celebrate Independence Day. The authors of the Declaration of Independence considered themselves to be free: free to make decisions regarding the future of their lives, free to worship, free to work out for themselves how they would spend time on this earth, time God had given them. They also realized that freedom must always be used responsibly. For them and for us today, freedom does not mean that we can do whatever we please. It means that we are free to make choices, but our choices, hopefully, will be determined by good moral and religious upbringing.

On Independence Day, we reflect upon this great gift of freedom God has bestowed upon our country. We take time to say, "Thank you, Lord, for allowing us to be free. May we always cherish this gift and never take it for granted. May we make responsible decisions, decisions that will reflect our love for you and all your creation. May we continue to work for peace and justice, not just here in our own land but for all people throughout the world. You have created us and we know that we are brother and sister to each other. Help us to treat one another accordingly."

The sacrifice of Jesus has set us free from the bonds of death and sin. St. Paul tells us that "no distinction is made: all have sinned and lack God's glory, and all are justified by the free gift of God's grace through being set free in Christ Jesus." (Romans 3:23-24) May we use our freedom to do more than avoid sin. May we make Jesus' reign here on earth one of peace and love, always lived out in freedom.

Father David

Are You Called to the Permanent Diaconate?

The Diocese of Joliet will begin the process of inviting men to discern the call to the diaconate in a series of three informational sessions:

**The Blanchette Catholic Center
16555 Weber Road
Crest Hill, IL 60403
August 1, 8, 15 - 7:00-9:00 pm**

**St. John Paul II Parish
907 S. 9th Street
Kankakee, IL 60901
August 2, 9, 16 - 7:00-9:00 pm**

**St. Petronille Church
420 Glenwood Avenue
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
August 2, 9, 16 - 7:00-9:00 pm**



**If you sense God is calling you,
please consider attending the
Informational Sessions.**

**No registration is required and
wives are welcome.**