

God Bless America

Prayer for Government

We pray, Thee O Almighty and Eternal God! Who through Jesus Christ hast revealed Thy glory to all nations, to preserve the works of Thy mercy, that Thy Church, being spread through the whole world, may continue with unchanging faith in the confession of Thy Name.

We pray Thee, who alone art good and holy, to endow with heavenly knowledge, sincere zeal, and sanctity of life, our chief bishop, Pope Francis, the Vicar of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the government of his Church; our own bishop, Kevin, all other bishops, prelates, and pastors of the Church; and especially those who are appointed to exercise amongst us the functions of the holy ministry, and conduct Thy people into the ways of salvation.

We pray Thee O God of might, wisdom, and justice! Through whom authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment decreed, assist with Thy Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude the President of these United States, that his administration may be conducted in righteousness, and be eminently useful to Thy people over whom he presides; by encouraging due respect for virtue and religion; by a faithful execution of the laws in justice and mercy; and by restraining vice and immorality. Let the light of Thy divine wisdom direct the deliberations of Congress, and shine forth in all the proceedings and laws framed for our rule and government, so that they may tend to the preservation of peace, the promotion of national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety, and useful knowledge; and may perpetuate to us the blessing of equal liberty.

We pray for his excellency, the governor of this state, for the members of the assembly, for all judges, magistrates, and other officers

who are appointed to guard our political welfare, that they may be enabled, by Thy powerful protection, to discharge the duties of their respective stations with honesty and ability.

We recommend likewise, to Thy unbounded mercy, all our brethren and fellow citizens throughout the United States, that they may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the observance of Thy most holy law; that they may be preserved in union, and in that peace which the world cannot give; and after enjoying the blessings of this life, be admitted to those which are eternal.

Finally, we pray to Thee, O Lord of mercy, to remember the souls of Thy servants departed who are gone before us with the sign of faith and repose in the sleep of peace; the souls of our parents, relatives, and friends; of those who, when living, were members of this congregation, and particularly of such as are lately deceased; of all benefactors who, by their donations or legacies to this Church, witnessed their zeal for the decency of divine worship and proved their claim to our grateful and charitable remembrance. To these, O Lord, and to all that rest in Christ, grant, we beseech Thee, a place of refreshment, light, and everlasting peace, through the same Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Archbishop John Carroll was the cousin of Charles Carroll, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. In 1789, Pope Pius VI named him the first bishop of the United States. (He would later become the first archbishop when the Diocese of Baltimore, Maryland, the mother diocese of the United States, was elevated to the status of archdiocese.)

Archbishop Carroll wrote this prayer November 10, 1791, to be recited in parishes throughout his diocese. It is a good prayer to pray as a family or as a parish on national holidays, such as Independence Day.

http://catholicism.about.com/od/prayers/qt/For_Government.htm

JULY 4, 1776.

States of Ame

...the political bonds which have connected them...
...a due respect to the opinions of mankind...
...that all men are created equal; that they are...
...these rights, Governments are instituted among...
...the Rights of the People to alter or to abolish it, or...
...moral liberty to effect their safety and Happiness...
...experience hath shown, that mankind are more...
...train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably...
...and to provide new Guards for their future...
...systems of Government. The history of the present...
...any ever these States. To prove this, let Facts...
...He has forbidden his Governors to...
...d, he has actually neglected to attend to them...

...ation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to...
...deposition of their Public Records, for the sole...
...might his usurpers on the rights of the People...
...e, have advanced to the Royal and large for their...
...avoured to prevent the Population of these States...
...visions of new Appropriations of Land...
...is dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of the...
...harage our People; and cut out their Substance...
...independent of and superior to the Civil Power...
...to their Acts of pretended Legislation: — For...
...ould commit on the Inhabitants of these States...
...ways cases of the benefits of Trial by Jury; —...
...establishing them an Arbitrary government; and...
...For taking away our Charters, abolishing our...
...necessaries invaded with Power to legislate for us...
...hundred our seas, covered our Woods, burnt our...
...tion and burning, already begun, with circumstan...
...our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high...
...d the... resolutions amongst us, and has...
...all ages... conditions. In every Stage...
...are, which, and which, and which, and which, and...
...these from time to time of attempts by their Legislat...
...and the... of these Resolutions, in and right to...
...and the... of these Resolutions, in and right to...
...and the... of these Resolutions, in and right to...

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.