



***Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy***

**By Marge Loenser**

As soon as I think of July, I think: The Fourth of July! **Happy Birthday, United States!** It's your 245th birthday! As a country we have survived so many wars, so many natural disasters, so much terrorism and of course, COVID-19. We now face the greatest challenges of all, a nation divided and the challenge of holding on dearly to a nation that is slipping away from God. We are "one nation, Under God, with liberty and justice for all (born and unborn)." I feel it fitting to print the following prayer for our country to Our Blessed Mother. It comes from a group called "**Laity for Mercy**":

*Oh, most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, at this most critical time, we entrust*

*The United States of America to your loving care. Most Holy mother, we beg you to reclaim this land for the glory of your Son.*

*Overwhelmed with the burden of the sins*

*Of our nation, we cry to you from the depths of our hearts and seek refuge in your motherly*

*Protection. Look down with mercy upon us and touch the hearts of our people. Open their*

*Minds to the great worth of human life and to the responsibilities that accompany human*

*Freedom. Free us from the falsehoods that lead to the evil of abortion and threaten the*

*Sanctity of marriage and family life. Grant our country the wisdom to proclaim that*

*God's law is the foundation on which this nation was founded, and that He alone is the True*

*Source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. O Merciful*

*Mother, give us the courage to reject the culture of death and the strength to build a new*

*Culture of Life. Amen.*

This month we celebrate St. Maria Goretti, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, St. Bridget, the parents of our Blessed Mother: Joachim and Anne, Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus and St. Ignatius of Loyola to name a few.

Let us not forget the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel on the 16<sup>th</sup>. With these aforementioned saints we have wonderful role models to emulate; beautiful souls that fell in love with Jesus, and decided to follow Him, regardless of the cost. I pray for their intercession on our behalf.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, let us never cease to pray for each other and specially to pray for our church. I pray the Holy Spirit comes down and envelops each and every church in our world from the Vatican and to every parish!

Have a wonderful July. God bless us, each one. Happy Fourth!! Love Marge



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