

MASSACHUSETTS & RHODE ISLAND SUPPLEMENT

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JULY MESSAGE

Happy Summer! Ice and snow are long forgotten as the heat and sunshine flood over New England.

245 years ago, a group of men gathered together in a hot and stuffy room and pledged to one another their "lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor". They went on to found a new government which was predicated on the most radical notion of any nation in the history of the world – the belief that men could actually govern themselves; that they did not need some patriarchal or matriarchal figure to tell them how to lead their lives or to take care of them. Later, they adopted a symbol of that nation – a banner which stands for "We The People" – The Republic – still the most radical governmental system in history.

Today, we gather in parades, on back decks, at the ball park, and all over this nation to do honor to those men and their vision of a free nation under We The People. While we enjoy those parades, those ballgames, and the cookouts, let's remember those men and women who have fought for that Republic and, especially, those men who had the courage and character to dare pledge their lives, fortunes and sacred honor on our behalf.

Happy Birthday America! Long may the Stars and Stripes wave over this free land and may God Bless The United States of America – and all of you as well.

Jim & Lady Barbara

JULY MESSAGE By the PRELATE

This month we celebrate the freedom of this country from the rule of a tyrannical king and unresponsive government in which we had no representation. As we celebrate this enviable freedom let us not forget there is a parallel to our spiritual freedom. John 8:31-32 tells us *To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* Freedom of spirit, freedom from tyrannical religious laws and rote practices. Freedom to accept God's love and embrace the freedom of being redeemed from sin. freedom to be accepted into the kingdom of God. As we celebrate our country's freedom, let us also pause and celebrate our truth of a saviour who set us free.

God bless you all.

Glen

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