

A Memorial Day Remembrance

The Story of Memorial Day

After the bloody war between the States, citizens of the North and the South felt a need to honor those fallen in the war. On various days people from different communities would place flowers at the graves of those they wished to honor. The day came to be known as Decoration Day. By 1868, the northern states were keeping the day on May 30.

In 1882, the day was renamed Memorial Day and extended to honor the fallen in other wars. Since 1950, Congress has designated Memorial Day as a day when the people of the United States might unite in prayer for permanent peace. In 1971, President Nixon declared it a national holiday and designated the commemoration for the last Monday in May.

Besides honoring those Americans from the armed forces, it is also a day for personal remembrance of all loved ones. Flowers on graves, church services, visits to the cemetery are all ways to mark the day with dignity and solemnity. In this spirit it is only fitting to make this day one of prayer in our Catholic faith with its long tradition of remembering the faithful departed.

Scripture Reading

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Trial, or persecution, or hunger, or nakedness, or danger, or the sword?...I am certain that neither death nor life... will be able to separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ, Jesus, our Lord.

Romans 8:35,38,39

Prayer

Father, hear our prayer.

You are the source of forgiveness and salvation.

By the intercession of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, may our friends and relatives who have gone from this world come to share eternal happiness with all your saints.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

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