

RESPECT LIFE HOLY HOUR REFLECTION FOR NOVEMBER 5, 2024: One Nation Under God

Today's Holy Hour falls on Election Day. I was originally not going to write a reflection, intending for us to pray both the Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Rosary for our Maryland and our Nation during the Holy Hour. However, at 5:00 am on the morning of Election Day, a reflection was dropped in my lap.... Or should I say, in my bed. 'Somehow' I came upon a link to a prayer in the Hallow app. It was an Election Day Prayer. It included the following quote from President Abraham Lincoln.

In the midst of the Civil War, President Lincoln declared a "Day of National Humiliation, Fasting, and Prayer" to be held on April 30, 1863. In the proclamation he said, "...it is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.... But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!"



In God We Trust

I highly recommend you access the entire brief proclamation here: <https://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/speeches/fast.htm>.

When I read Lincoln's proclamation, I couldn't help but ask myself whether, although the divisions then and now are different, could the *cause* behind the divisions be the same? Have we too forgotten God and who we are with respect to God?

Amazingly, both the readings during Morning Prayer and at mass addressed the question. In the Morning Prayer, Psalm 67 reminded us: "Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth." And in the Reading at mass, we read, "Brothers and sisters: Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and, found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."(Philippians,2:5-11)

Prayer Intention: Let us offer our prayers for our Nation and our Nation's leaders. Let us pray that we return to our country's founding principles and courageously declare and live by those principles so that we may truly be one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all!

St. John Paul II and Our Lady of Guadalupe, Pray For Us!!!