

## Daily Devotional, May 26, 2020 God Bless Our Public Servants

**John 15:13 (NIV) Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.**

Yesterday, on May 27th, the US celebrated Memorial Day, which is a time set aside for remembrance and appreciation of those who have served their fellow man through self-sacrifice. Kind of reminds me of someone in the Holy Trinity that we worship and glorify.

In our church's Intercessory Prayer this past Sunday, we prayed for those in our armed forces, and other public servants who have given their lives for our liberties. I'm hopeful that many of you found ways to memorialize the fallen warriors of your choice yesterday, or will pick up your Bible today, and say a prayer of thanks to God for the freedom that was bought for you to be able to do this. Even today, in some countries, we could be arrested for attending a church not approved by the government, or just for reading a Bible. Some Christians lose their jobs, are tortured, and even killed for their faith.

Throughout the years, members of the armed forces have sacrificed their "normal" lifestyles, their well-being - and sometimes their very lives, to secure and preserve freedom for their own countries, as well as for others. Our armed forces have long been the watchdog over the tyranny that many others face. These are mostly young adults whose adult lives have barely begun. Yet they have chosen this task of protecting our way of life, of justice and freedom for all. Continue to pray for their protection each day.

And every day, our police officers and firefighters risk their safety to "protect and serve." It used to be said that police work was "99% boredom and 1% sheer terror." No more can that be said. There is potential danger on every call. And instead of thanks, too often law enforcement personnel - who are mostly understaffed as well as underpaid - face abuse and lack of respect from the very ones for whom they sacrifice. There is not one single day that a firefighter or a police officer loses their life in their service to protect us. Please pray for them and their loved ones on a regular basis, as well.

And today we have many brave doctors, nurses, paramedics, and many others in the medical field whose lives are in further danger due to this horrible pandemic that surrounds all of us. How many of them could have foreseen the spread of this virus and the huge risks that they would be taking in order to contain its spread and to bring healing to the thousands who have contracted it? Add them to your prayer list.

You hear about the rare cases of corruption in the military or law enforcement or among paramedics and firefighters, and those in medicine, just as you hear about the rare aviation accidents. But by far, the great majority are hardworking, dedicated, and worthy of our respect and appreciation. Do not forget them.

I encourage you that the next time you see someone from the armed services or law enforcement, firemen, paramedics, or medical professionals, show them your appreciation - and thank God for providing these examples of Christlike sacrifice. And not just on Memorial Day, but every day!

***<sup>1</sup> God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. <sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea. Psalms 46:1-2 (NIV)***

***A prayer of Blessing in the words of Psalms 91:3-7 (NIV): <sup>3</sup> "Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. <sup>4</sup> He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. <sup>5</sup> You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, <sup>6</sup> nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. <sup>7</sup> A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you." May the Lord God, who loves you, protect you. May Jesus Christ, His Son, who died for you, save you. And may the Holy Spirit who broods over the chaos and fills you with His presence, intercede for you and in you for others at this time. Amen.***