



## ***Some Thoughts for July***

**By Marge Loenser**

Happy Birthday USA!!! It is our 246th!! As a nation we have come through wars, foreign and domestic, attacks by terrorists, depressions, recessions, pandemics, floods, hurricanes, black outs, brown outs and so much more. God, however, keeps our nation together because He continues to be faithful to us even when we fall short of our faithfulness to Him.

We must always remember that our country was founded on Judeo-Christian values, and we must continue to fight to hold on to these values every day! We lift up in prayer all those who sacrificed their life to protect us and our freedom.

We lift up those injured in wars, and we lift up all our brave first responders; our military and our police. We thank God for them. You are a brave and loyal lot who rush into danger, despite the cost, to save and protect us. May God bless you and your families.

This month celebrates many great saints. For example, St. Elizabeth of Portugal (July 5th), who was the great niece of St. Elizabeth of Hungary. She dedicated her life to the poor, providing shelters for the homeless and orphans. On July 6th we have St. Maria Goretti, who sacrificed her life to defend her virginity and then forgave her attacker.

St. Benedict, July 11, who established a monastic life and the Benedictine order. On the 16th we celebrate Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. From the Old Testament we read that the great prophet Elijah dwelt on Mt. Carmel, and St. Simon Stock received the large brown scapular from our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

On July 22 we celebrate St. Mary Magdalene. It is said that after the disciples left the Holy land after the resurrection, Mary settled down to a life of prayerful solitude in a cave in the mountains of St. Baume, France. She was buried in the town of St. Maximin.

On the 25th we celebrate St. James, older brother of St. John, both sons of Zebedee. St. James went on to evangelize Spain as well as the Holy Land.

His remains were found at Santiago de Compostela, Spain, which has been a great pilgrim sight for hundreds of years. St. James was beheaded by the Romans. St. James, pray for us. I wish you all a happy and healthy July 4th. We have so much, as a nation, to be grateful for! Enjoy the summer and stay cool.

Love, Marge



Marge Loenser is a member of Saint Mark's Church in Sea Girt where she is Lector and Eucharistic Minister. She has retired from teaching CCD at Saint Mark's. She has been a member of Catholic Women of Zion for about 30 years and is also a member of Mary Queen of Peace Prayer Community for about the same length of time. She writes for a monthly column for Saint Mark's Church Bulletin.