

MEMORIAL DAY REFLECTIONS

Rev. David W. Ragan, Sr. VP of Resident Services

Even in the midst of the Covid Crises, we still celebrate and greet each other with “Happy Memorial Day!” Well, maybe “happy” is a bit incorrect in that the day has a sobering history and perhaps should evoke deep reflection. Memorial Day, and the weekend’s purpose, is slipping away from the conscience (and consciousness) of our society, and is turning into nothing but “happy” while letting go of its history. Lost, or soon to be lost, are the traditions of decorating cemeteries, which was the inspiration for the original name “Decoration Day.”

The history itself is a bit mixed, but likely its genesis is at the conclusion of the Civil War when the Union soldiers who died in the bloody fight were celebrated and remembered for sacrificing their lives for freedom and justice. It grew into an annual day of remembrance for all who have lost their lives in war, as flags were traditionally set to half-mast from sunrise until noon. That was history.

Today it means summer is around the corner and school is out and, in Arizona, it means that it is time to get ready for the beach. It means picnics, fun and frolic for most (except in times of pandemics). That is what Memorial Day has slowly evolved into. Isn’t it ironic that instead of fun and frolic, picnics, beer and hot dogs, it is really about those who have suffered the horrors of war and gave their lives in doing so?

It is hard to imagine all the lives, on all sides of war, who have died through the decades fighting for a cause they believed in, or were forced to defend because they did not have freedom, or because their leaders had grandiose ideas of forcing people to be like them and think like them. As long as there is thinking like that there will be wars, and lost lives and Memorial Days will go on and on.

Decorating the final resting spots of those who have died is honorable, and holding parades of celebration is noble. Would not it be the greatest tribute to those who died fighting for freedom and peace, to actually dedicate ourselves today to work tirelessly for the very freedom and peace that is still lacking because war is able to grow like a malignant disease and far more threatening than any pandemic? I do not have the answer as to what will one day prevent war and loss of life. I do know, though, that - just like treating any disease - it is wiser and has a greater chance for us to live successfully - if all possible actions are taken to prevent it from ever occurring in the first place. Do that, and it will be worthy of the greatest parades, picnics and celebrations for the whole of the human family.





When Jesus saw her weeping, and those who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ... Jesus began to weep. - John 11:33, 35
 Back in 2015, while speaking to 30,000 young people in Manila, Pope Francis was asked a question by 12-year old Glyzelle Palomar. "Why did God let this happen to us?" the young Filipino asked, covering her face with

her hands as she sobbed. Visibly moved, he put aside a text he had prepared for the occasion in order to respond directly to the young woman. Francis answered her with a 40-minute reflection on the nature of suffering, love, and service. "The nucleus of your question almost doesn't have a reply," the pontiff said at first. "Only when we too can cry about the things that you said are we able to come close to replying to that question. Certain realities in life we only see through eyes that are cleansed through our tears."

Addressing the thousands of youth in the crowd, he continued: "I invite each one of you to ask yourselves: 'Have I learned how to weep, how to cry when I see a hungry child, a child on the street who uses drugs, a homeless child, an

abandoned child, an abused child, a child that society uses as a slave? Let us learn how to weep, as she has shown us today," said Francis. "Let us not forget this lesson. The great question of why so many children suffer. She did this crying. And the response that we can make today is let us learn, really learn, how to weep." After Palomar asked her question, the Pope enfolded the sobbing child in his arms. Then he admonished everyone to quiet down and pay close attention because, he said, "She has just asked the one question with no answer." In these awful days of virus-related illness and death, give us tears, O God, so that we may perceive clearly; and perceiving, join each other in suffering; and in joining, be moved to love in deed.

BEINSPIRED LIVE! CHANNEL 1-2: BROADCASTING SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

**ROADRUNNER READINGS
MONDAYS ONLY
8:30 — 9:00AM**

**LIFE ENRICHMENT
DAILY
9:00 — 10:00AM**

**FITNESS LEVEL 1
DAILY
10:00 — 10:30AM & 1:00 — 1:30PM**

**FITNESS LEVEL 2
DAILY
10:30AM — 11:00AM & 1:30 — 2:00PM**

**SUCCESS MATTERS
MONDAY—FRIDAY
11:00AM — 12:00PM**

**BEINSPIRED LIVE! WITH MICHELLE & DAVID
MONDAY — FRIDAY
2:00 — 3:00PM**

**MODERN TECHNOLOGY CLASSES
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
2:00 — 3:00PM**

**SPIRITUAL LIFE PROGRAMMING
DAILY
3:00 — 4:00PM**

**MUSICAL HAPPY HOUR
DAILY
4:00 — 5:00PM**

**COMEDY HOUR *NEW*
FRIDAYS ONLY
5:00—6:00PM**

**BROADCAST CONTENT ENCORE
DAILY
5:00 — 10:00PM
(FRIDAYS START AT 6PM)**
Each segment is condensed to one showing per rotation, daily.

This schedule is subject to change based on unforeseen circumstances, specials, encores or other necessary adjustments in programming. Please tune in frequently for updates as we are constantly evolving and refreshing broadcast content.

ALSO: Please join us on BCCREW.NET to stay informed and in touch with your fellow neighbors. Now featuring a new interface with daily video updates from BeInspired LIVE! You can also start up a chat conversation with your neighbors.

Thank you for tuning in to our broadcasts!

—Korry Nelson, x18493

WELCOME TO BEATITUDES!

MAY 21ST
 Florence (Estelle) McLeod
 PH1308

**PRAYER REQUESTS, X15186
 DIAL-A-PRAYER, X15187**

**TUNE IN TO
 BEINSPIRED LIVE!
 CHANNEL 1-2 ON YOUR TELEVISIONS FOR
 UPDATES, NEWS AND INFO FROM YOUR
 STAFF.**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

25th—Janet Shaw
 27th—Una Thomas
 28th—Barbara Dillion
 Amy Schultz
 Claire Spencer
 29th—Judy Beaudette