AMERICA 250

Family Resource Kit

Piety and Patriotism Go Together

Elementary-Aged Children

This activity focuses on a short video from Fulton Sheen and is perfect for young children, and the young at heart.

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Activity 1

PIETY AND PATRIOTISM GO TOGETHER

Context for This Activity

American government is based on the foundation that all people have certain natural rights. These rights are ours by virtue of our humanity - in other words, we have them simply because we are human! This is a very important distinction. Governments do not give or "grant" us our natural rights; rather, governments protect rights that we already had.

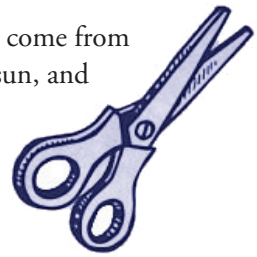
The Declaration of Independence (like other Enlightenment-era documents) says our rights come from our "Creator." This is true! The Catholic Church teaches more precisely that our rights flow from our human dignity that comes from being made in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, every single human being is equal in rights and dignity. This is a basic restatement of the teaching of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, as well as the Declaration of Independence!

Ven. Fulton Sheen made the observation that when you think about it, then, the Declaration of Independence is actually a declaration of dependence, because we are dependent on God for all of our rights and liberties.

To Do with Your Children

Watch the brief Fulton Sheen video here: **SophiaOnline.org/GloriesOfAmerica**. Have young children complete the activity page by cutting out the pictures and pasting them near their source. The goal of the activity is to help children recognize God as the source of their natural human rights.

As you paste each item, talk with your children about how they each come from their source: we would not be able to have light or heat without the sun, and we would not have any of our rights without God.



Ask older sibling to connect each of the rights to those the founding fathers later listed

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among those protected by the Bill of Rights:

- Freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition: First Amendment
- Freedom to bear arms: Second Amendment
- Right to private property and to due process of law: Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Amendments

As a family, listen to a dramatic reading of the Declaration of Independence available at **SophiaOnline.org/DOI-Full**, or by scanning the QR code.

Have your children memorize the 1st line of the 2nd paragraph of the Declaration of Independence. Help them with vocabulary with a few short explanations:

- To teach what the word endow means, mom or dad can talk to each child about the gifts they have given them (e.g. beautiful green eyes, a talent for piano, soccer, or painting.) Say, "Daddy and I endowed you with the gift of music!" Mom or dad could also hold a gift and hand it to a child, saying "I endow you with this" and name the item.
- To teach inalienable, tell your children, "Inalienable means God gave it to you, and no one can take it away."

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

My Notes

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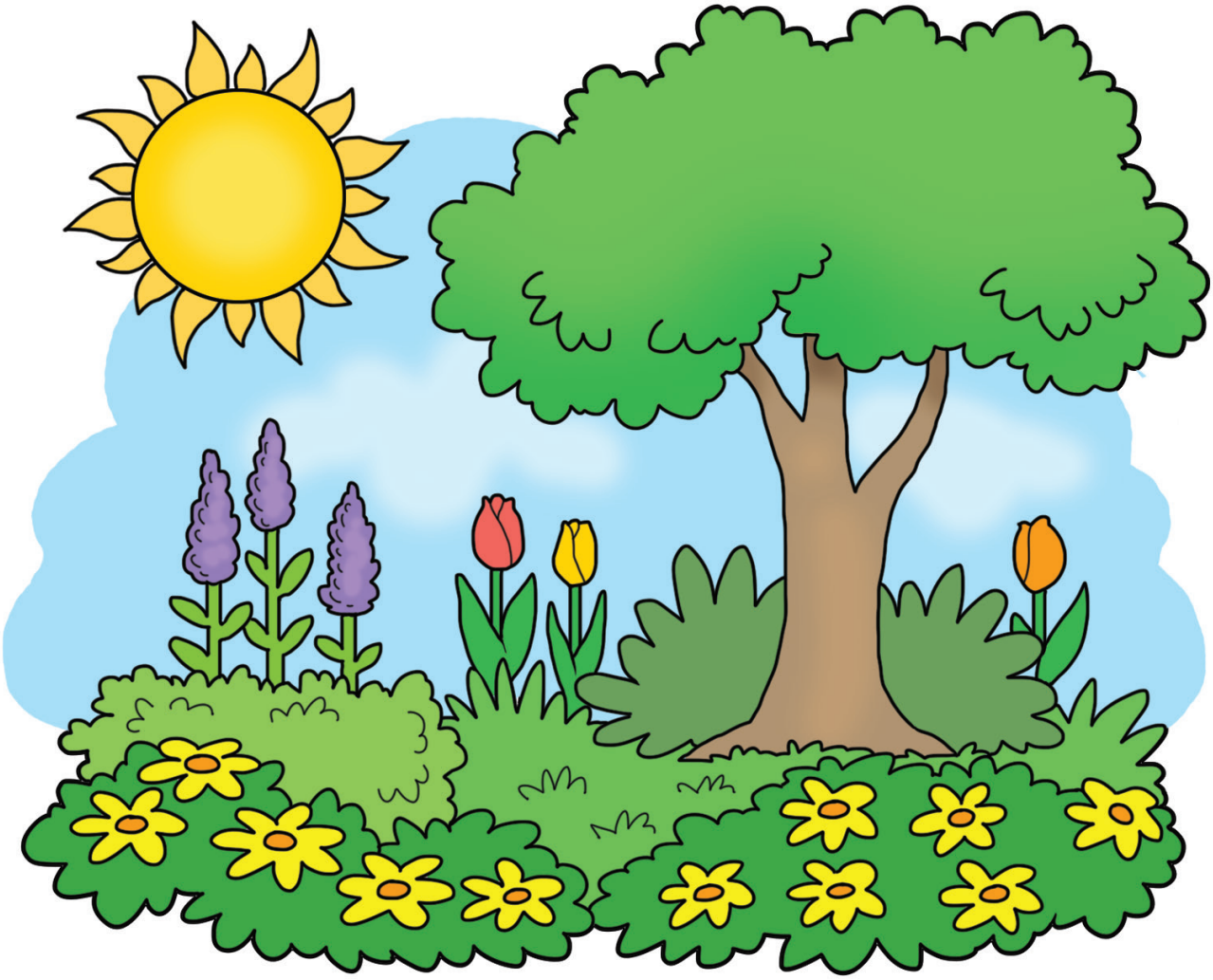
Activity Page

OUR SOURCE

DIRECTIONS: Fulton Sheen said "If we wish to keep our light and heat, we must keep our sun. If we wish to keep our perfumes, we must keep our flowers. And if we wish to keep our rights and liberties, we must keep our God. Piety and patriotism go together. That's the first glory of being an American." Cut out the small pictures and paste them next to their source.



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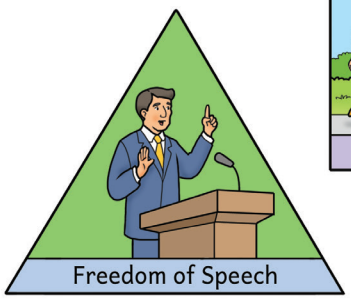

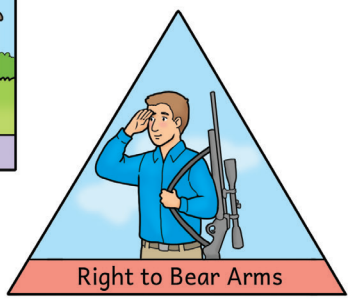

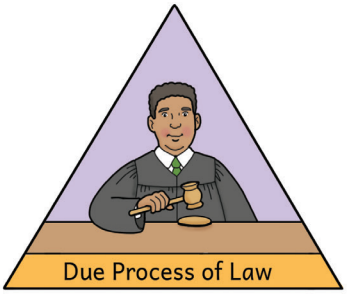

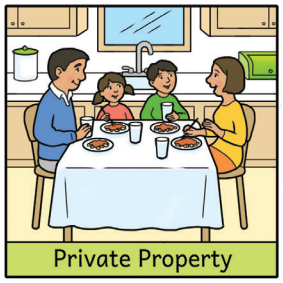

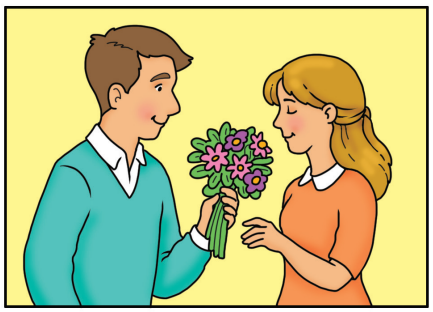

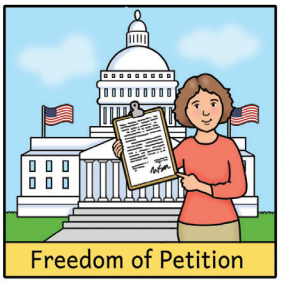

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