



Dear Parish Leader,

As our nation prepares to celebrate the 250th anniversary of America's founding, we are filled with gratitude for your leadership and your love of both faith and country. By helping to share these America250 Resource Kits with families in your parish, you are taking part in something truly special: renewing hearts and minds around the timeless principles that shaped our nation, and what Ven. Fulton Sheen called "The glories of being an American."

By sharing these resources, you are helping families:

- See how faith and freedom are inseparable in our national story.
- Reflect on how virtue builds strong homes, communities and nations.
- Inspire the next generation to cherish and protect the blessings of liberty entrusted to us.

As we mark this milestone together, may we echo the conviction of our founders: that our rights come not from kings or governments, but from God Himself, and that a people who keep Christ at the center are capable of self-government.

Thank you for your willingness to serve, to lead, and to light the way for others. Together, we can make this anniversary not only a celebration of history, but a renewal of hope and purpose for America's future.

With gratitude and prayer,

Charlie McKinney

President

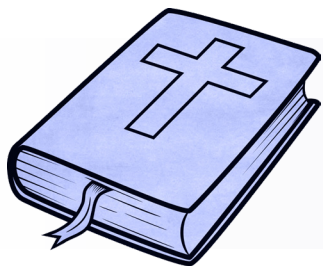
Sophia Teachers

*** Celebrate *** **AT YOUR PARISH**

Recruit three fathers to dress up as Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, and Catholic signer Charles Carroll, and lead a dramatic reading of the Declaration. Alternatively, play the dramatic reading available on Saintifi.

Encourage parents to explore other resources created especially for America250.

Have parents and children show off their memorization of the 1st line of the 2nd paragraph of the Declaration. You could also have older children memorize longer sections, and/or a specific grievance, and incorporate these contributions into the dramatic reading.



Offer a special Mass of Thanksgiving for the nation, incorporating patriotic hymns (“America the Beautiful,” “God of Our Fathers”) alongside sacred music. Invite families to offer intercessions for civic leaders, liberty, and peace.

Offer a Holy Hour for the nation, with Exposition and Benediction with prayers for renewal of faith and virtue in public life.



Organize a parish-wide Rosary for America with intentions for unity, life, liberty, and virtue. Include outdoor candles with a patriotic theme, and/or red, white, blue flowers.

Recruit a few volunteers to research and dress up as American saints (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. John Neumann, St. Katharine Drexel, Ven. Augustus Tolton, or Ven. Fulton Sheen). Have a birthday party for America with cake and candles, with your saints mingling among the guests. After you sing happy birthday, ask your “saint guests” to offer toasts inspiring Americans to live virtuously, always keeping Christ at the center.

