



Daily Reflections

July 4, 2018

Scripture

Matthew 8: 28-34

When Jesus came to the territory of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs who were coming from the tombs met him. They were so savage that no one could travel by that road. They cried out, "What have you to do with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the appointed time?" Some distance away a herd of many swine was feeding. The demons pleaded with him, "If you drive us out, send us into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go then!" They came out and entered the swine, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea where they drowned. The swineherds ran away, and when they came to the town they reported everything, including what had happened to the demoniacs. Thereupon the whole town came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him they begged him to leave their district.

Our Scripture Reflection

Freedom is the theme of the wonderful national holiday we celebrate today and freedom is the theme of our Gospel reading. Our Lord encounters a man who has been held captive for many years by a whole legion of demons which

caused him to suffer terribly. After encountering the possessed man, Jesus casts out the demons setting him free to do God's work. Our great nation was founded on the belief that God was the reason for our existence. May we never forget that without God we will never remain free. May we never miss an opportunity to thank Him and witness to Him in all that we do. May God always bless the USA!

Food for your Journey

There's a legend where three demons are overheard planning how to get the most victims for their master.

The first said: "Tell the people 'There is no God.'"

"No, that won't do," said the others. "There are too many evidences of his goodness to convince people."

The second proposed: "Say 'There is no hell.'" The others replied, "That won't convince people either because some of their fellows are there already."

The third produced the most effective way, "Tell them 'There is no hurry.'"

A Prayer from the Heart

Gracious Father, I thank You and praise You this day for the many blessings that You give me in this life. This day I thank You, most especially, for the gift of our great nation. So many people out of love for You and for this country have given their lives to keep her free. Keep all of us who enjoy life in America humble and devoted to You. May we and the generations to come never forget that we owe our very existence to You. Amen