

Letters to the Editor

From page 3

vine Providence," pledged to each other their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor.

This is part of our heritage, the recognition that our rights come from our "Creator" not from the government or from the military or from politicians. Our inheritance is that we can appeal "to the Supreme Judge of the World" and He will listen. The legacy that our founding fathers provided us with is the "reliance on the protection of Divine Providence".

Our birthright is a country based on the free exercise of religion. Thomas Jefferson declared that "No men shall...suffer on account of his religious opinions or belief, but all men shall be free to profess and by argument to maintain, their opinion in matters of religion." George Washington wrote "Every man, conducting himself as a good citizen, and being accountable along to God for his religious opinions, out to be protected in worshipping the Deity according to the dictates of his own conscience."

Our bequest is Godly men and women who recognized and verbalized our need to seek God. Benjamin Franklin spoke to this issue when he addressed the Constitutional Convention on June 28, 1787. "In the beginning of the Contest

with G. Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayer in this room for Divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered... have we now forgotten that powerful Friend? Or do we imagine we no longer need His assistance? I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth - that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? ... I therefore beg to move - that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessing on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business..."

It was never the intent of our founding fathers to separate our public life from our private life. They saw that faith in God was good for the governed and for government. George Washington commented, "While just government protects all in their religious rights, true religion affords to government its surest support". John Adams stated, "our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." James Wilson, a signer of the Constitution observed, "Far

from being rivals or enemies, religion and law are twin sisters, friends and mutual assistants. Indeed, these two sciences run into each other. The divine law, as discovered by reason and the moral sense, forms an essential part of both." John Adams was resolute in his belief that "It is religion and morality alone which can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely stand. The only foundation of a free constitution is pure virtue." Rev. John Witherspoon, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, stated, "It is in the man of piety and inward principle, that we may expect to find the uncorrupted patriot, the useful citizen, and the invincible soldier. God grant that in America true religion and civil liberty

may be inseparable and that the unjust attempts to destroy the one, may in the issue, tend to the support and establishment of both."

Let us not disregard these legacies. What is important is, Who gave us liberty and what are we to do with it? Bear in mind Thomas Jefferson's statement, "God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a national be thought

secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that his justice cannot sleep forever."

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Benedict
Vernonia

POLICY ON LETTERS

The INDEPENDENT welcomes readers' letters and will publish as many as possible. All letters must be signed, including those sent by fax, and include a verifiable address and telephone number, which will not be printed except at the writer's request. Unsigned letters will not be published.

Rose Valley will be hosting FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR RETIREMENT

Presented by **Jim Emery, Scappoose Allstate Agency**
Thursday, July 25th, 2002 at 7:00 p.m.

Advances in the study of medicine, nutrition and technology have enriched the quality of our lives. People are healthier and live longer than ever before. However, with average life expectancy increasing, the need for assisted living or nursing home care has become a reality for many.

Long-term care expenses are generally not covered or paid for by Medicare or the major medical health insurance providers. Come and get the facts and some solutions to this growing problem. Refreshments will be served. **While you're here take some time to tour our community. We'd love to show you around!**

For additional information call **(503) 543-4646**.



Rose Valley
ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY

33800 SE Frederick, Scappoose, Oregon 97056
www.RoseValleyALE.com

MYTH:

Catholics have no Biblical basis for what they believe about salvation, the sacraments, the Mass, Mary, the papacy, purgatory, prayers to the saints, etc. etc.

FACT:

Get ready for the surprise of your life.

Come for a **FREE** talk
(followed by Q & A session to take all your questions)
by



Gerry Matatics

Internationally known Catholic speaker
(Lectured at Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Notre Dame, Boston College, etc.)
Former university & seminary professor of Sacred Scripture, theology & apologetics
Former ordained Protestant minister, Presbyterian Church in America
M.Div., Gordon-Conwell Seminary; ABD for Ph.D., Westminster Theological Seminary
Founder & President, Biblical Foundations International

How the Bible Converted Me to Catholicism: One Protestant Minister's Pilgrimage

Thursday
August 1, 2002
7 pm

Talk is FREE and open to the public:
Catholics and non-Catholics alike warmly welcome
Followed by Q & A session:
Bring your Bibles, your questions, your pastors, and your friends!

Scout Cabin

Hawkins Park, 901 Park Drive, Vernonia OR

From out of town: from Hwy 26 go north on Hwy 47 for 15 miles, turn right at blinking yellow light (near City Hall) onto Bridge St, then take 4th left onto Park Dr just before you would cross bridge. Scout Cabin is log building 1 block down on left.

Gerry is also debating Rob Zins, (ex-Catholic) Protestant minister & author of two books critiquing Catholicism, on the topic:
"Does Scripture teach the Perpetual Virginity of Mary?"

Saturday, August 3, 2002 at 7 pm

Holiday Inn Portland Airport
8439 NE Columbia Blvd, Portland OR • (503) 256-5000
Exit 23B off I-205, stay in right hand lane,
go west on Columbia Blvd for 3 blocks, Holiday Inn is on right

Debate is open to the public: Catholics & non-Catholics welcome (\$5 donation for admission is requested to pay for the use of hotel; in addition, two separate free-will offerings, one for each debater, will be taken up to help defray his travel expenses)

For more details, please visit Gerry's website at www.gerrymatatics.org, e-mail us at gmatatics@aol.com, or call us at (570) 969-1724