

Each generation of Americans seems to have a “teachable” moment. A moment that defines their direction, that typifies their experience, that embodies their spirit...

Such moments are frequently painful, precipitated by unexpected trauma and loss... We are shaken to the core of our individual and national being... we wonder why.

We are targets, why do people so fear or even hate so much that they would threaten to kill the innocent and powerless to somehow advance their “cause” by violent means?

Sad experience now adds 9/11 to the calendar for this generation as Pearl Harbor and the assassination of JFK has been for prior ones.

How shall we respond? heal? remember? honor? How can we find any hope to get us through this mourning into the promise of a better future?

The answer lies, I pray, with our belief in the God we so boldly assert has blessed these United States. With the guidance of this Divine Providence whom we call by many names - whose Presence we discern in all our daily events and activities, good and bad, large and small, critical and mundane - we will not only survive but will thrive.

Together with this Divine Compass, we will chart the course through tragedy, destruction and loss to the hopeful shore of endurance, toughness, compassion, patience, tolerance and understanding.

Now we pause to remember those who were lost on 9/11, we are grateful for their lives and sacrifices, they are gone from our midst, but we carry them eternally in our hearts.

We uplift their families and share their loss and grieving it is not their wound only but ours as well. We salute with renewed vigor and profound appreciation all those who served without ceasing during this period of confusion and recovery – and who serve us still – in Law Enforcement, Fire and Emergency Medical Services. We commend, too, the volunteer multitude, who served without fanfare, without ego but with profound care for the lost and wounded whether in body, mind or spirit.

God has blessed us richly before, God has sustained us in this latest crisis, may we once more look to the Holy Mountain of Liberty and the Promise of Justice for all and pray again — as with One Voice... God Bless America.

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