

CHURCH CONNECTION

JULY 2023



NO GREATER LOVE

In 2001, I traveled with my wife to Hawaii for our 25th wedding anniversary. We were able to spend some time on Oahu where we visited Pearl Harbor and the *Arizona* Memorial. After viewing a film in the visitor's center, we were shuttled via a Navy launch across the harbor to the Memorial. As we stood in the Memorial, which is erected above the sunken *USS Arizona* and saw the names of those who lost their lives on that infamous day in 1941, the weight of the loss settled on us. You could not help but weep for the loss of life that occurred that day, especially with the realization that many were entombed in the bowels of the ship we could see in the water beneath us.

Not many years later we had the privilege of visiting France, where my brother-in-law and his wife were in language school, preparing for missionary service. While there we drove up to Normandy. We stood on that beach where, in 1944, so many made the ultimate sacrifice. It was such a peaceful beautiful day, it was difficult to imagine the carnage that unfolded on that beach decades earlier. Then we visited the American cemetery. There we saw hundreds upon hundreds of perfectly aligned gleaming white stone crosses, marking the graves of those American young men who would never return home to loved ones. And again, we were moved to tears.

You cannot visit sites like these and not be filled with a profound sense of both grief and gratitude. Grief over the destruction and death wrought by war. Gratitude for those who were willing to serve even if it meant losing their lives. In June we remembered D-Day. In July we celebrate the birth of our country. Both events

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STRENGTHENING,
PRESERVING & PROMOTING
MARRIAGE, FAMILY, LIFE &
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Please Pray!

Pray for LEAD Wisconsin (July 16-21). Pray for safety. Pray God will work in the teens' hearts. Pray they will grow in the faith and in their love for the Lord and His Word. Pray they will stay healthy throughout the week. Please pray for our speakers and camp staff as well.

Pray for our elected officials. Pray that those who know the Lord will serve Him well in their position. Pray that those who do not know the Lord might come to trust Him. Pray for your state representative and state senator by name. Go to legis.wisconsin.gov to find the names of your representative and senator.

Pray for God's protection and provision for the work of Wisconsin Family Council.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16



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American cemetery at Normandy.

remind us that our liberties have been purchased by the blood of those who died that we might live.

Nonetheless, their great and noble sacrifices are a dim reflection of the greatest sacrifice ever made. Jesus said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend" (Jn. 15:13). And a few hours later, the God-Man demonstrated His sacrificial love by dying not just for friends, but even for those who

hated Him and His message. We remember the cross with both grief and gratitude as well. Grief for the sin and rebellion that made the cross necessary. Gratitude for the infinite love and grace that willingly made the sacrifice to purchase our redemption.

It is right and good for us to remember the sacrifice of so many that made our country possible and that has preserved us as a nation. It is even better to remember with eternal gratitude the sacrifice that made our redemption possible.

We are confronted with many issues today. If you dare to maintain there is such a thing as absolute truth you will likely be called a bigot, a hater, or worse. As the prophet Isaiah opined, "truth has fallen in the streets" and "evil is called good and good evil." But let us not grow weary in well doing. Jesus calls us to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth. As we share and live the truth, may we demonstrate the love of God. We are and should be profoundly grateful for the love of our fellow-countrymen who gave their lives for us. But we are eternally grateful for God's love, that made redemption possible. There is no greater love!

~Dave Lingle, Church Ambassador, Wisconsin Family Council

WHAT ARE WE WILLING TO DO?

"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Lk. 9:23). Ponder that carefully. We are called to daily bearing a cross. For believers today, that must surely include giving up our comfort by speaking truth to a culture that desperately needs to hear it but doesn't want to. Are we willing to make our voices heard in the marketplace and at the ballot box? Are we willing to share the truth with our next-door neighbors and even our family members? Are we willing to swim against a cultural current that is hostile to God and His revealed truth? So many sacrificed so much to preserve our earthly homeland. Are we willing to make sacrifices for the sake of God's eternal Kingdom?

Wisconsin Family Council (WFC) is a 501 (c)(3) organization that has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin since 1986. We have largely done this by informing Wisconsin citizens, policymakers, and churches about the important legislative and cultural issues so they can be involved in strengthening, preserving, and promoting God's plan for marriage and family, the sanctity of human life, and religious freedom in our state.

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