

**Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary-Tuesday, December 8
Mary Immaculate, Patroness of our beloved land, pray for us!**

On the eve of this Solemnity, exactly seventy-nine years ago, the Empire of Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. The next day, President Roosevelt announced that we were at war. He spoke of “the day that will live in infamy.” Thus began our participation in the sad events of World War II, which had already begun in Europe in 1939. We would be at war until the defeat of Japan on August 15, 1945. A whole generation, and indirectly those after, would be formed by these tragic years of war. One commentator rightly described this age group as “the greatest generation”, because of the many sacrifices they were asked to make before, during, and after the war. Through it all we Catholics believed that Our Lady in her Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States, intervened on our behalf to bring us victory over the powers of darkness. Many have remarked that for us the war began on the Feast of Mary’s Immaculate Conception and ended on the Feast of Mary’s Glorious Assumption. From its earliest days, our bishops have placed our nation in the loving embrace of Immaculate Mary, Mother of God.

During these difficult times of pandemic, let us renew our consecration to Jesus through Mary. St. John Paul II often reminded us that when victory comes it would come through Mary. More than ever, we need a prayer army with rosaries in hand fervently calling out to our Mother to intercede for us. She has come through for us before in difficult times, why not now in this dark hour.

Tota pulchra es, Maria, et macula originalis non est in te. Tu gloria Jerusalem, tu laetitia Israel, tu honorificentia populi nostri; You are all beautiful, Mary, and the original stain (of sin) is not in you. You are the glory of Jerusalem, you are the joy of Israel, you give honor to our people.

Yours in her Immaculate Heart,
Fr. Mark G. Mazza, Pastor