

Memorial Day 2015  
May 25, 2015

Rev. Andy Szebenyi, SJ  
All Saints Parish, Syr., NY

### Memorial Day

My dear brothers and sisters, today we celebrate Memorial Day. We celebrate the heroism of many men and women from the military, the air-force, and the navy, who gave their lives for our country – defending us from the hatred and hostility of an enemy ready to destroy us. We can only hope, that as time goes on, we can all learn that there is no need for violence as we realize that we all need each other, we all depend on each other. Then it may become obvious that one does not fight one's friends and benefactors. Miraculously this has already been achieved within our country where the many originally hostile nations now coexist in love and peace in mutual support for the sake of the now common needs and interests. We call this political entity, this incredible unity within the great diversity of many and originally hostile nations, the United States of America. We find that a similar union of common economic interest has brought many of the similarly hostile nations in Europe into a mutually beneficial economic unity known as the European Union.

We can only hope that eventually all hostility may cease when we finally realize that there is but one earth, and one human family, and we all need each other for the benefit of all.

Until that time, life is less happy and is less rational in providing the need to fight a just war against an enemy, and to have heroes of conflict willing to give their lives for the men, women, and children of their beloved country.

We recommend them and their heroic lives to God, and pray that eventually and hopefully soon, peace will come to all.

Amen.