

A PASTORAL MESSAGE FROM FATHER PETER

September 2013

Labor Day I BELIEVE in hands that work. Someone once said, "Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle. But you shall be a miracle. Every day you shall wonder...at the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God."

As workers we belong to American aristocracy. There is a dignity about work. There can be a dignity about all work.

I BELIEVE in brains that think. It has been well said that "the greatest undeveloped territory in the world lies under your hat." Let's develop it! The only way that it can be developed is if we work with it. That means time and energy and persistence.

I BELIEVE in hearts that love. Our civilization needs a revival of the Christian principal centered around the commandment, "Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself." There is a definite question in the minds of thinking men today, whether a civilization can survive that is not built on this principle. It is brotherhood or chaos.

R. S. MacArthur has reminded us: "Men seldom die of hard work; activity is God's medicine. The highest genius is willingness and ability to do hard work. Any other conception of genius makes it a doubtful, if not a dangerous possession."

Labor Day was set aside as the Emancipation Day of the laboring man. Though

holidays may lose significance with the passage of time and fade in the public memory, still, Labor must never lose sight of the fact that this word, Emancipation, has been recognized nationally in its behalf. Europe followed the national example of our country in 1890, and set their Labor Day as May 1.

Emancipation means freedom! Labor has freedom, and the power to maintain that freedom, and Labor will not fail!

Can anyone conceive of America without Labor? Can trees be felled, fields cleared,

cabins built, educational systems inaugurated, and community settlements established without labor?

Labor gave us our start, it has contributed immeasurably to our growth, and we are still dependent upon Labor for progress; we will always depend upon Labor, and, under the guidance of its most level-headed, common-sense advocates, Labor will not fail!

The genuine American has as its motto in his life what Bovee has said, "Next to faith in God, is faith in labor." Yes, we, here in America, have that faith. Let us keep up this faith and I am certain our country always will be the most progressive one in the world and the best place to be able to enjoy God's abundance.

Fr. Peter

