

Let Freedom Ring!

Each July I am consumed with thoughts about freedom. As you read this newsletter it might sound familiar from last year's newsletter, and most of it is. I cannot resist the topic. In the United States, July might be best known for the celebration of our country's independence - freedom and justice for all. Freedom is one of our most wonderful gifts. We don't have to be religious and we don't have to talk politics to appreciate freedom. The whole Bible revolves around freedom – from the first sin in the Garden of Eden to the present day where evil still exists. Evil is real. If you don't believe in Adam and Eve or the devil, well, think of your first recollection of a time you did something wrong as a small child. We cannot fully appreciate how free we really are unless we have had the unfortunate chance of living without this freedom. Our right to freedom also comes with responsibility. We can't hurt others and we also have the responsibility of caring for others that are not as fortunate as ourselves.

Freedom is also a very important element of faith in God or something bigger than ourselves. We can establish a relationship with God or with others, but it is clear that we can do bigger and better things when we work as a team. We were not made to live in isolation. We all have some level of freedom. We can choose to do right or we can choose to do wrong. Let us recognize this freedom with the responsibility that comes with it. Let us love and respect others as they are perfectly and wonderfully made, and with a wide diversity of personalities and talents. When we choose to love our neighbor we begin to form a community. When we choose to utilize our talents to the best of our ability we are living up to our full potential. When we work together and combine our talents and energy, we can make this world a better place. I am grateful for all of the staff at Maristhill and for the wonderful and Godly work they do caring for others. Each day and in each moment in the day we can choose to help and do good. It is only in "act" that we can do good. Not helping someone in need is doing wrong. There are many small things we can do with great love and these small acts can make a wonderful difference in someone's life – especially for persons not free from pain, suffering and those who do not have the ability to care for themselves. Together we form a family of care givers and a community.

Take a moment to think of all of the choices you have each day and may you choose to do good and bring justice, joy and peace to others. We were created to be joyful and should be grateful for the gifts we do have. So spread your joy! We are all free to be joyful and may we be thankful for being a member of this Maristhill community!

Let there be joy on earth and let it begin with me!



*Janet Hutchison,
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