



Independence: Faithful Patriots Played Significant Roles

Many people know that Charles Carroll of Carrollton was the only Catholic who signed the Declaration of Independence, but many other Catholics contributed in a significant way to the fight for independence: John Barry, Stephen Moylan, Mary Waters and Thomas Fitzsimons, to name a few. There were significant contributions of so many courageous men and women, many of whom were Catholics, to what has been called “the great American experiment.”

Charles Carroll arguably took the biggest risk — and had the most to lose — since he was the wealthiest man in the colonies at the time, according to *New Advent’s The Catholic Encyclopedia*. Born into a wealthy family in Annapolis, Maryland, he was sent to France and England for his education. He arrived back in Maryland at age 28, just in time for the intense reaction to the Stamp Act. At once, Carroll began to write against the unjust taxes. By 1774 Carroll was one of the citizens elected to represent both the local county and Annapolis, although Catholics were considered ineligible to hold such seats. At the time there were few Catholics in the country, and there was predominant prejudice against those who were here.

“These elections showed that, despite the anti-Catholicism of the colonial period, Revolutionary-era Americans did not see any incompatibility between Carroll’s Catholicism and America’s fledgling republic, which both shared Enlightenment ideals,” Andrew Salzmann, who teaches American Catholic history at Benedictine College, explained to the Register. As detailed by Matthew Bunson and Margaret Bunson in the *Encyclopedia of U.S. Catholic History*, “His appearance at the Continental Congress irritated some Protestants, but his wealth — estimated at about \$2 million — won the argument because the average American recognized that Charles was risking more than most in order to see America free.” Three months before Carroll was elected as one of Maryland’s four representatives to the Continental Congress for the fateful July 4, 1776, meeting, he was appointed with Benjamin Franklin and Samuel Chase to visit Canada to ask for their alliance in the fight for independence. Carroll’s cousin, Father John Carroll, was asked to join them.

During the American Revolutionary

War, Charles Carroll served on the Board of War, and after independence was won, he took his seat in 1788 as a senator in the first Federal Congress. When he died at age 95 in 1832, he was the last survivor of those who signed the Declaration of Independence.

Commodore John Barry was an Irish-born sea captain who emigrated as a youth to Philadelphia, which he called home for the rest of his life. He would earn the title “Father of the American Navy.” Indeed, Capt. Barry, already a seasoned skipper, had a remarkable war career. He would be such a proven commander that later President George Washington appointed Barry to be head of the Navy, stating he trusted in Barry’s “patriotism, valor, fidelity and abilities,” according to a U.S. Navy history online. Capt. — later Commodore — Barry, the first American to receive that title, was an “ardent Catholic,” the Bunsons noted in their book.

“Barry was a firm believer in Divine Providence and regularly opened his ship day with a Bible reading to his crew,” wrote John Barry Kelly in an article about the captain available through the U.S. Navy website. (No mention is made if the writer was descended from the captain.) Capt. Barry had no children from his first marriage nor, after his wife died, from his second marriage, although he and his wife raised his two nephews, sons of his late sister.

Both wives were Protestants, but converted to Catholicism, noted Kelly: “The Barry’s were regular parishioners at several Philadelphia Catholic churches: Old St. Joseph’s, Old St. Mary’s and, eventually, St. Augustine’s.” The naval hero and his wives are buried in St. Mary’s Church cemetery.

Successful Philadelphia merchant Stephen Moylan, who became quartermaster general of the Continental Army, volunteered for Washington’s Army at the start of the Revolutionary War. By June 1776, he was appointed commissary general of the Continental Army; and, before that, in 1775, he acted as Washington’s first secretary. After fighting in the Battle of Princeton, he formed a horse regiment at Washington’s request, suffered with the men at Valley Forge, and then engaged in other battles

through Yorktown. He left the Army a brigadier general. While Moylan’s brother Francis remained in Ireland because he was bishop of Cork, his brother John also joined the Continental Army and was appointed the clothier general.

After the war, the Catholic Church created a diocese in the new United States, naming Father Carroll the country’s first bishop. He tirelessly helped the Church in America grow and established colleges and monasteries, such as the Poor Clares in Fredericksburg, Maryland. He helped establish four other dioceses beside Baltimore, to which he was appointed the country’s first archbishop. And in 1792, as the new nation’s first bishop, he was the first to consecrate the country to our Blessed Mother under the title “Immaculate Conception.” “Of those things that give me most consolation at the present moment,” he said, “one is that I have always been attached to the practice of devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary; that I have established it among the people under my care, and placed my diocese under her protection.”

“Throughout the colonial period and into the late 1700s, Catholics were often discriminated against in both law and attitudes,” author Paul Kengor, professor of political science at Grove City College in Grove City, Pennsylvania, told the Register. “Fortunately, their zealous commitment to the cause of the American Revolution and independence helped change those attitudes and even those laws. Americans generally recognized and appreciated those Catholic contributions and that loyalty. Protestants learned that Catholics loved their country as much as they loved their pope. They were not only loyal to their Church but to their nation.”

The Revolutionary War pushed the formerly anti-Catholic colonies to be more accepting of American Catholics, Salzmann said. “There were different reasons for this change in attitude, such as Americans’ gratitude for the help of France’s Catholic king and the tiny size of the Catholic population. But the Carrolls show that an important part of this shift was the ability of Catholics to embrace shared American ideals during the heyday of the Catholic Enlightenment.”

(Continued on page 3)

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Monte Carlo Night

September 15, 2023

5:30 pm: Cocktails Served

6:30 pm: Games Begin

At the Tinnemeyer Residence



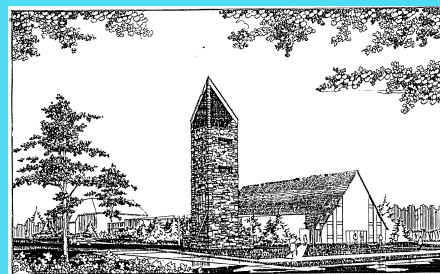
Cocktail Attire

**Honoring this year's Legacy Award Recipients
Dr. Robert (Lou) & Ann Sutherland.**

**If interested in sponsorship or tickets please contact
Amanda Spencer- event chair at 610.413.3147
or email aspencer1408@gmail.com**



UPCOMING EVENTS



Swing and a Prayer Golf Outing

Knights of Columbus

Reading Country Club

August 18th @ 1:00 p.m.

The Parishes Italian Picnic

@ Victor Emmanuel II

August 13th 12:30 P.M.—2:30 p.m.

Monte Carlo Night

Sacred Heart School

September 15th @ 5:30 p.m.

**HAPPY
4th of July**

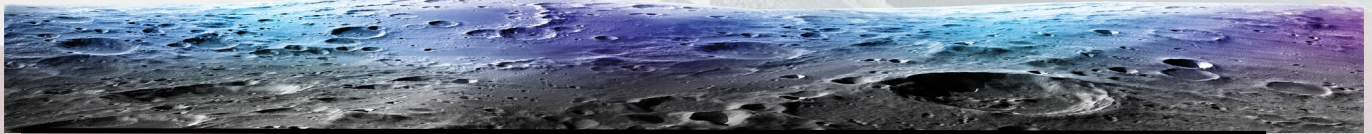


Thank you



Thank you to everyone who participated in Vacation Bible School this year! It was a successful event with 21 children in attendance. We played games with Ms. Grace watched "Kid Vid" with Ms. Rita, made crafts with Ms. Patty, created snacks with Ms. Julie, sang and danced with Ms. Christo, and learned interactive bible stories with Ms. Kirsten!! All of the donations we received were very much appreciated and put to good use! Our teenage and adult volunteers were amazing and we couldn't have done this without them!

Thank you for all your contributions to our Operation Kid 2 Kid fundraiser! We collected a huge amount of school supplies. Father Samuel will send these supplies back to his home country, Ghana to help children who are in need!



(Continued from page 1)

The Revolutionary War and American founding included the aid of many patriots, including Catholics like (from left to right) Charles Carroll, John Barry and Father (later Bishop) John Carroll. (photo: public domain)



Italian Family Picnic

August 13th

@ Victor Emmanuel II

12:30 P.M.—2:30 P.M.

Please join Holy Rosary and Sacred Heart Parishes!

\$20/ Person

More info to follow....



In March 1790 President George Washington recognized the contribution of Roman Catholics in a personal letter addressed explicitly to them, catalogued in the National Archives: "As mankind become more liberal they will be more apt to allow that all those who conduct themselves as worthy members of the community are equally entitled to the protection of civil government. I hope ever to see America among the foremost nations in examples of justice and liberality. And I presume that your fellow-citizens will not forget the patriotic part which you took in the accomplishment of their Revolution, and the establishment of their government; or the important assistance which they received from a nation in which the Roman Catholic faith is professed."

By: Joseph Proneche via nwww.ncregister.com

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GOLF SCHEDULE

- 11:30 a.m. – Registration
Refreshments
- 1:00 p.m. – Shotgun start
- Post Golf – Post Golf Summer BBQ
Prizes/Awards



Friday August 18, 2023

1:00 p.m. Shotgun start

Reading Country Club

Rain or Shine

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Golf Package - \$125 per person

Package includes refreshments, green fees, cart, gift bag, drinks on course, and post golf food/awards.

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- Sign on cart

For more information on becoming a sponsor, please email Mark Merolla at mjm@bmflaw.com.

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