

The American Experiment

By Father John Catoir, JCD



The American Experiment is still alive and well.

In 1776 many European social scholars, who were all raised under kings and queens, predicted that the American democratic experiment would never succeed. They assumed that citizens would only elect public officials who promised them generous welfare checks, and that the resultant Nanny State would eventually collapse into bankruptcy and chaos.

This negative forecast had a ring of truth to it, but they overlooked the profound spiritual depth of the American character. Our founding fathers coined the phrase: "One nation under God" and the early patriots risked their lives to build the American dream on a strong spiritual foundation. "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men (and women) are created equal." Our first President, George Washington prayed for God's Providence to guide and protect us.

Even so, the American experiment has been slipping in recent years. We've become more secular in our laws and customs. The ban on prayer in schools, and the strong pro-abortion lobby are just two issues that awakened concern. Many Americans came to believe that America needed to head in different direction.

The future of the Supreme Court was seen as an important issue. The choice of new justices will affect both abortion-on-demand, and the Second Amendment issue, involving the right to bear arms. We also needed to strengthen our defense system against the Radical Jihadists, who declared war on us, and took down the Twin Towers killing three thousand Americans. They have been indiscriminately murdering innocent citizens all around the nation ever since.

Surveys showed that the economy was a primary concern for the average American. Unemployment has led to widespread economic insecurity. Added to that was our worry about the Affordable Health Care system, which did not deliver what was promised.

For many, the threat of secularism was a major concern. The secularists promote an exaggerated form of individualism, which has led to our growing drug epidemic. Google reports that 200,000 Americans died using illicit drugs in 2015. That figure doubles when you add all the other deaths related to alcoholism and the abuse of prescription drugs. Compare those 400,000 deaths in one year, to the 87,000 combat related fatalities in the Korean and Vietnam Wars combined, over a period of 23 years, and you can see how monumental this drug epidemic has become.

Our national debt is now over \$20 Trillion and growing. If this trend is not reversed, the early prophecies of gloom and doom about the future of the American experiment will surely be fulfilled. Our debt has been building for a hundred years, and it won't go away overnight. However, with diligence, it can be drastically reduced over the next decade.

Congress, in the past, was not responding to the will of the electorate, and this has been disheartening for voters of all ages. The legislators tended to respond more quickly to lobbyists and special interest groups rather than to the silent majority. Hopefully, the members our new Congress will work together for changes that will make a positive difference for all Americans.

Many believe our prayers are now being answered. Hope for a better America is much brighter. Let us pray for our President, as we pursue the lofty goals of peace and prosperity.

God bless America.