

The Evolving Nature and of Freedom, Reason, and Faith

The political freedom we experience in the United States is the envy of many people around the world. But freedom in America has its limits due to the way our Constitution with its 27 amendments, and the long history of court precedents have evolved. The same is true of every human discipline, and industry, and profession, especially Healthcare in which Dr. Patthoff is involved. Some things, however, do not evolve, like the laws of nature, although our understanding of them does. The dogmas of the Church also do not evolve, but their application does as society changes. In this paper, Dr. Patthoff will explain how we can understand the balance between what naturally evolves and what doesn't, particularly as it relates to Faith and Reason. As St. Augustine and St. John Paul II remind us: Faith informs reason, reason verifies faith, and together, when properly applied, faith and reason will always lead to freedom.

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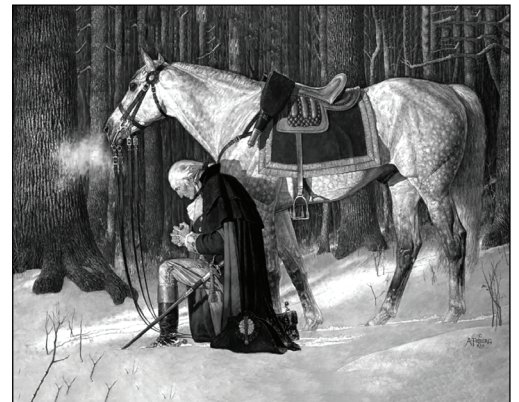
Donald Patthoff

Dr. Patthoff has long been interested in the intersection of American and Catholic history and how George Washington brought diverse interests together across political, business, cultural, religious, and geographic disciplines to create the Great American Experiment. That interest led to the establishment of the George Washington Chair of Living Ethics at Shepherd University and the development of a narrative about the American Character based on George Washington's character. The effort includes the exploration of the George Washington Homeland's key properties, including Priest Field Retreat Center. He is eternally grateful for the friendship of two past directors of Priest Field, Fr. Ted Midile and Fr. Bill Linhares, and their invitations to consult with Edythe Darrow as she explored the history of Priest Field that led to his meeting Dr. Stanley Williams.



I now make it my earnest prayer that God would have you and the State over which you preside in His holy protection; that He would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy nation. Amen

-G. Washington



Arnold Friberg's "The Prayer at Valley Forge"

ABOVE: Excerpt of prayer from General George Washington's Circular Letter to the States, which he wrote on June 8, 1783 as the commander in chief, at his headquarters in Newburgh, New York. This circular was directed to the governors and states of the new nation.