

Dear Parishioners:

On June 6, we commemorated the 75th anniversary of the invasion of Normandy, "D-Day". Before the invasion began, General Dwight Eisenhower, the Supreme Allied Commander addressed the troops:

You are about to embark on the Great Crusade toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944! The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to victory!

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle.

We will accept nothing less than full victory! Good luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.

D-DAY FACTS:

156,000+ troops landed on the 5 beaches with 6,000 ships and landing craft. The troops came from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, France and Norway. By June 11 (5 days later), 326,000 troops had landed with 100,000 tons of military equipment.

12,004 total killed, wounded, missing or captured.
 8,230 Americans
 2,700 British
 1,074 Canadians

Let us be mindful of all those who sacrificed their lives on D-Day, but let us also be mindful of all those men and women who have served in defense of our country over the years, including those who serve this very day. As of Dec 31, 2018, there are 496,777 World War II veterans still alive.

Remember: Together, we can do something beautiful for God.

In Christ,

Fr. Brian

PS: Fr. Ignatius Maternowski, a 32 year old Army Chaplain, was killed on D-Day by a German sniper. He was a Conventual Franciscan from Ohio who had parachuted in with the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment.