

Fr. Martin's Reflection – October 9, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to wish you all a very happy Columbus Day weekend. The big question is, what does it mean to me? In the early years following Columbus, this land became a refuge for many people. Many were seeking religious freedom, freedom from persecution because of their religious views, their political views, and simply to begin a new life. To mark Columbus Day isn't just simply to remember the past and all those who got the opportunity to start anew, it is also an opportunity to ask the question, who needs refuge today? Who needs an opportunity to start anew?

When Columbus arrived here, he didn't find an uninhabited land. There were many tribes of peoples, who already had their own traditions and culture. With the arrival of the Europeans, the indigenous people's lives, traditions, and culture experienced a severe and brutal attack. Many died from the diseases Europeans brought with them, many others were forced from their land, and when they tried to defend themselves and their property, they were killed. Those who were left were forced to migrate to lands that were completely alien to them. This Monday is also Indigenous People's Day.

On this Columbus Day, let us give thanks for the opportunities this land has offered to so many people. On this Indigenous People's Day, let us seek forgiveness for all the ills that were inflicted on them and that our government will help to right some of the wrongs that was towards them.

May God's great love and mercy guide us and strengthen us as we live, work, and worship together this coming week.

Fr. Martin