

FFWPU USA: 22nd Anniversary of attack on World Trade Center in New York City - 9/11

Demian Dunkley
September 11, 2023



Photo courtesy of Reuters

"Now is the time to change everything. America and Americans must take the lead in practicing 'Love your enemy,'" said True Father following the terror attacks of September 11, 2001. Today as we remember the 22nd anniversary of the devastating attacks that claimed nearly 3,000 lives and deeply impacted America and the world, we recommit ourselves to the spirit of unity, patriotism, and service that carried our nation through in the days that followed.

Prior to 9/11, True Father had planned a World Clergy Holy Marriage Blessing Ceremony of 12,000 couples on September 22 at Madison Square Garden. The events of 9/11 meant canceling the ceremony, but it also challenged the interreligious and world peace premise upon which it was based. In the days after the World Trade Center's destruction, Unificationist leaders and American Clergy Leadership Conference ([ACLCLC](#)) clergy who were in town for the ceremony ministered directly to bereaved families, as well as to police, firefighters, and others at the site of the attack. Many even went out on the first night.

In the immediate wake of 9/11, Unificationists sought True Father's guidance. He was in Kodiak, Alaska, at the time, where Dr. Chang Shik Yang, then the Special Emissary to the Americas, reported True Father remained alone in prayer for the next three days and did not appear in public. True Father soon canceled the clergy Blessing and on Sept. 18 flew to New York City.

"Jesus was on the cross, now America stands on the cross of the world," True Father said upon his arrival, urging religious leaders to take the lead in responding to the 9/11 attacks. "They must unite beyond their religion and guide the political leaders of their nations." True Father asked Unificationists to convene an assembly in October on the theme "Global Violence: Conflict and Hope," and on November 15 he proclaimed Cheonju Pyeonghwa Tongil Guk (the Nation of Cosmic Peace and Unity).

Just as Christianity emerged from the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, and the Unification movement rose from the rubble of the Korean War, True Father saw a new world appear from the devastation of 9/11. "God's heart embraces even His own enemy, and will never denounce or cut him off," he notably said. "If you have such great love that you can love even your enemy, that power will melt everything."

"Families, nations, and the whole world are full of resentment, hatred, and conflict," he continued. "Resentment creates more resentment, and hatred creates more hatred. This way the conflicts in the world cannot come to an end. Only love of the quality of God's love can make the real difference. It can simply melt all resentment, all hatred, all evil. Only such a love can bring this world back to God and to peace ... And we are the ones to be the carriers of such love throughout our life."

September 11 - also known as Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance - gives us all a time to commemorate those who lost their lives in the terror attacks, give thanks to the brave first responders who put their own lives on the line, and reflect as we continue to practice this transformative concept of world peace: Love your enemy.

You can read the full White House Proclamation on Patriot Day 2023 [here](#).




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Clergy united to rebuild the family, restore the community, renew the nation and the world

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As Jesus said in John 17:21 KJV:

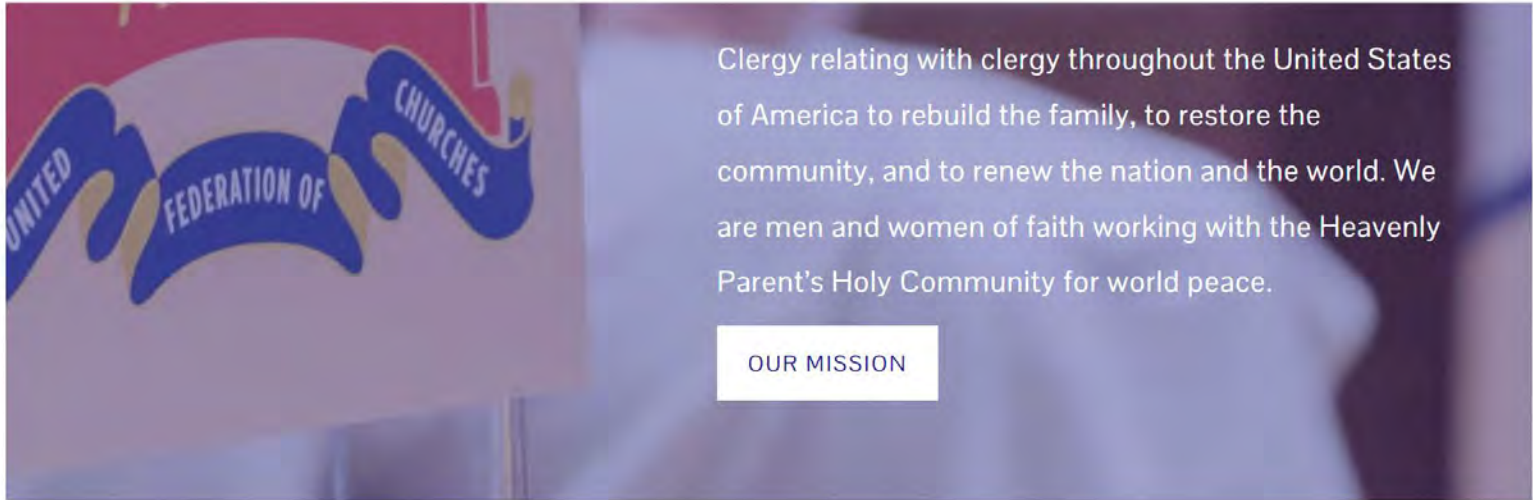
“That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”



**WE ARE A COALITION OF CLERGY UNITED TO
STRENGTHEN MARRIAGES, REBUILD
FAMILIES, RESTORE COMMUNITIES, RENEW
THE NATION AND THE WORLD.**

Founded on May 22, 2000 in Korea, when 120 clergy gathered to affirm the God given vision of Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon for the unification of the Body of Christ, the American Clergy Leadership Conference, ACLC exist for clergy and their families.

The mission of the ACLC is to unify clergy in the work of God, our Heavenly Parent.



Clergy relating with clergy throughout the United States of America to rebuild the family, to restore the community, and to renew the nation and the world. We are men and women of faith working with the Heavenly Parent's Holy Community for world peace.

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SEPTEMBER 08, 2023

A Proclamation on Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance, 2023



BRIEFING ROOM

PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

Today we remember all the heroes who were forged in the hours, days, and years that followed that terrible morning of September 11, 2001 — ordinary Americans who, amidst the terror, smoke, and flames, demonstrated extraordinary courage and selflessness. Together, their bravery helped prove to our Nation and the world that what those terrorists most hoped to wound could never be broken: the character of our Nation.

In the crucible that was September 11th, we saw just how deep that character goes. We saw it in the civilians, service members, and first responders who leapt into action that day, running into the searing flames and crumbling buildings — risking and losing their own lives to save others. We saw it in the incredible courage and resolve of the passengers on board Flight 93, who refused to let their plane be used as a weapon against more innocent Americans. We saw it in the police officers and firefighters who returned to the twisted steel and broken concrete slabs of Ground Zero and the Pentagon for months — breathing in toxins and ash that would damage their own health but nonetheless refusing to stop searching through the destruction. And we saw it in the millions of Americans across our country who responded to the September 11th attacks by signing up to defend our Constitution and join the greatest fighting force in the history of the world.

In the years since September 11th, hundreds of thousands of American troops have served — and sacrificed — around the world to deny terrorists safe haven and protect the American people. The First Lady and I hold in our hearts all those whose loved ones gave their last full measure of devotion in this fight. We owe them — and all our veterans and Gold Star Families as well as their survivors, caregivers, and loved ones — a debt of gratitude. While we can never fully repay that debt, we will never fail to meet our sacred obligation: to prepare and equip all those we send into harm's way and care for them and their families when they return.

In honor of all the lives we lost 22 years ago — and in honor of all the heroes who have given their whole souls to the cause of this Nation every moment since — may today not only be observed with solemn remembrance but also

with renewal and resolve. And I invite all Americans to observe this day with service; you can find opportunities to volunteer in your community by visiting americorps.gov/911-day. Together, may we continue to demonstrate that the rights and freedoms that those terrorists sought to destroy on September 11, 2001, remain unwavering — strengthened by generations of Americans who have dared all and risked all to defend, protect, and preserve our democracy.

By a joint resolution approved December 18, 2001 (Public Law 107-89), the Congress has designated September 11 of each year as “Patriot Day,” and by Public Law 111-13, approved April 21, 2009, the Congress has requested the observance of September 11 as an annually recognized “National Day of Service and Remembrance.”

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 11, 2023, as Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance. I call upon all departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the United States to display the flag of the United States at half-staff on Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. I invite the Governors of the United States and its Territories and interested organizations and individuals to join in this observance. I call upon the people of the United States to participate in community service in honor of those our Nation lost, to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities, including remembrance services, and to observe a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 a.m. eastern daylight time to honor the innocent victims who perished as a result of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-eighth.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.

A Proclamation on World Suicide Prevention Day, 2023

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