

**The Fourth of July in the United States is Independence Day.
Our country celebrates freedom.
What meaning does OUR COUNTRY'S freedom HAVE FOR you?**

(Responses are from parishioners, volunteers, ministry participants, staff.)

"I like the freedom of religion which also means to respect everyone else's."

Kathy Labmeier, Office Staff and parish gardener

"It is better in America because they respect the law of man. The government here respects humanity." America respects women. The men don't abuse the women or children. Children have the freedom to be anything they want." -Claudette Murekatete

"You can choose anything that you want to do. My kids have the freedoms to go to school and the teachers are encouraging and patient." - Anon.

"As a writer, I cherish my freedom to write what I like. But as a female, I also appreciate the equal opportunities that I have, especially in regards to education." -Kristen Spicker, volunteer

"We love it because we live here now." - Epiphanie Nibogoro

"I found a new life with the family, a dream and development." - Teofilo Bernardo

"American freedom is good because they helped me to come over here." - Amissa Nshimiriman

"America has more opportunity and freedom to work to create a livelihood" -Wences Perez

"I worship the way I want without anybody telling me what to do. I can go where I want to go anywhere in this country without being asked where I'm going. You can do a lot of things and you have the opportunity to do it. I can be who I am and succeed just by my hard work. No one can stop me from doing what I really feel I want and need to do."

- Bill Kuebler , aka Mr. Bill, aka Cookie Man who picks up food for our Food Pantry

"I am deeply grateful for the freedom to practice my religion." - Casey Betz

"If America was not peaceful, we wouldn't be able to come here. American freedom makes me happy and I enjoy it because if America was not free I might not be able to leave Africa to come here. American freedom is our freedom because it helps other countries. We are here and we don't feel as if we are foreigners. Americans make us feel like one of you. It is better for our children—they go to school and there is help for us and we feel safe." - Rebeka Baranyibikiye

"A day for family and friends to thank you for your service It's a good day for a veteran to reflect on the soldiers that didn't make it home to enjoy that pleasure."

- Rick Collini, Parish Maintenance Manager and Master of fixits!

"The freedom for people to follow their hearts and passion and to create their own path in life. For example, to start up their own company to adopt neglected or unwanted pets and find new homes for them. Freedom is also being able to walk freely with my master in parks, on the streets, or romp in my own yard without fear of danger or being questioned."

- Clancy, Parish Therapist and Sleep Specialist