



FAITH matters

October 14, 2024

Earlier this year I read an article about the Statue of Liberty and the familiar poem “The New Colossus” written in 1883 and engraved on the pedestal. Fleda Brown says, “I recently re-read it and noticed that in view of contemporary events, it struck me with surprising force. I had tears in my eyes, actually. ...The trouble with iconic poems is that you quit seeing them. You kind of know them, but not really...the poem does its work without once preaching to us. ..The fact that we haven’t lived up to those words doesn’t diminish the grand aspiration.”

Our Christian foundations confirm that praying for peace and safety for those left behind and welcoming the stranger is our faith-based call.

Read it again. Imagine yourself as an immigrant/stranger/alien and see if it brings tears to your eyes.

The New Colossus

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land.
Here on our sun-washed, sunset gate, shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glow world-wide welcome, her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
“Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp” cries she
With silent lips. “Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to be free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

Emma Lazarus (1849–1887)

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,
for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Hebrews 13:1-3

Faith Matters!

~Written by Pat Sheafor

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