

All gave some ... Some gave all.

Today is Veteran's Day. There is something very ancient, very visceral; in the sacrifice of someone who serves their country in the military. Love of family; love of the land of one's birth; love of country ... inspires a young person to choose to give the only thing they have - themselves ... in the defense of their nation.

The young have neither wealth, nor knowledge, nor experience ... yet there is something noble in the decision to sacrifice for that natural love and in defense of the things they love.

Today is also the memorial of St. Martin of Tours. Born in the fourth century; at 10 he entered the catechumenate; and at 15 he entered the military at the service of the Roman emperor.

Asked by a poor man ... in the name of Christ ... for alms - and having nothing but his cloak and his sword - Martin cut the cloak in two and gave half to the beggar.

Our Lord appeared to Martin in a dream wearing that half-of a cloak.

At 18 Martin received Baptism, and at 20 sought to be dismissed from the service of the Emperor to enter the service of Christ ... which was misinterpreted as cowardice.

He is remembered as saying: *"With the sign of the Cross, I shall more certainly break through the ranks of the enemy than if armed with shield and sword."*

Natural met supernatural ... the sacrifice of self for land and nation met the ultimate Sacrifice of the Son of God ... the natural love of homeland met the supernatural Love for all humanity.

Martin, the young military man - became Martin ... priest, then monk, then bishop. His life was filled with many manifestations of God's power in the world.

Let us pray for the intercession of St. Martin of Tours - for the transformation of our natural abilities - through God's grace - into supernatural abilities that we might manifest the power of God in the world for the salvation of souls.

And let us remember those who served our own country - especially those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in that service.

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