



Pies, Pardons, Pigskin, and Presidential Proclamations

The Latin word, *tradere* means to transmit, to hand over, to give for safekeeping....and so is born a notion I love - particularly at the holidays - traditions. They are how I keep aglow the light of loved ones now passed, recapture the wonder of childhood memories, and give myself over to the meaning of the day. I join with family and friends to bring forward in celebration and for safekeeping - joy, humility, laughter and happiness, remembrance, and gratitude.

On Thanksgiving, we eat my grandmother's pumpkin pie as her presence remains

in the kitchen, and chuckle at the turkey pardoning, and renew the age-old debate of which is better: the original meal or the leftovers (obviously the leftovers!). We watch the Macy's Parade and the Charlie Brown Thanksgiving tv special, we root against the Dallas Cowboys, and I call the Butterball Hotline (1-800-BUTTERBALL). We volunteer with a local charitable organization, and we thank God for the good people and the bountiful blessings in our lives.

I am reminded of the holiday's significance by another tradition, the Thanksgiving Proclamations. Every President from Washington on forward has decreed a day of national thanksgiving, even though these proclamations have been unnecessary since 1863 when President Lincoln made Thanksgiving a national holiday. The words are poignant and reflective of the times during which they were written, and they underscore the importance of reflection with gratitude on the wealth of goodness in our lives. They also call on us to share with others, the bounty of our blessings.

President Reagan said rightly of this holiday, "Perhaps no custom reveals our character as a Nation so clearly as our celebration of Thanksgiving Day. Rooted deeply in our Judeo-Christian heritage, the practice of offering thanksgiving underscores our unshakeable belief in God as the foundation of our Nation and our firm reliance upon Him from Whom all blessings flow. Both as individuals and as a people, we join with the Psalmist in song and praise: 'Give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.'"

I wish for you a holiday full of love, and light, and laughter, and I remain ever grateful for the meaningful ways in which you shape and gratify my life through our work at Pepperdine. As I do for your presence in my life ... "let us thank God for our families, friends, and neighbors, and for the joy of this very festival we celebrate in His name. Let every house of worship in the land and every home and every heart be filled with the spirit of gratitude and praise and love on this Thanksgiving Day."

Psalm 30:12

That my glory may sing your praise and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

Nicolle Taylor