



EDITORIAL

by Monsignor William J. Linder

A PRAYERFUL PRESIDENT

Barack Obama says he prays for humility and a closer walk with God. For strength “to do right by our country and its people.” Even as the mass protests in Egypt were starting to intensify, the President was addressing an audience gathered for the National Prayer Breakfast, shining perhaps the brightest spotlight to date on his faith and his belief in relying on a power beyond himself to deal with life’s most pressing issues. He spoke passionately about the letters he receives daily from Americans who are unemployed, or who have lost a home or their health insurance—letters that weigh heavily on his heart and on his mind. “It’s faith that reminds me that despite being just one very imperfect man, I can still help whoever I can, however I can, wherever I can, for as long as I can, and that somehow God will buttress these efforts,” he said. A calling to “fix what was broken,” is what led Obama, after college, to become a community organizer on the South Side of Chicago. This is where, Obama said, he first came “to know Jesus Christ for myself” and “embrace him as my Lord and Savior.” For those who have continued to question whether Obama is really a Christian, that statement alone should settle the score.

But even if it doesn’t, Obama made it clear that “ultimately what matters most” to him and Michelle “is not what other people say about us, but whether we’re being true to our conscience and true to our God.” Obama made it clear that since he has occupied the White House, his Christian faith has been a “sustaining force,” and prayer “a source of strength.” As Americans, I think we should take comfort in the fact that we have a President who humbly recognizes the confines of his own power and is wise enough to pray for divine power.