



Voting with a Catholic Conscience

During his papacy, Pope St. John Paul II said this: *"If you want peace, work for justice; if you want justice, defend life; if you want life, embrace the Truth – the Truth revealed by God..."* (Re. L'Osservatore Romano, February 3rd, 1999, p.9)

My dear friends, Tuesday (November 3rd, 2026) is Election Day across America, and (as a Catholic Priest) I believe that every Election is an important Election in our Nation. Why? Because as Catholics, voting is not just a 'bonus;' it's a 'duty' – a 'moral obligation' – a time for all of us to *embrace the Truth*.

God has given us the gift of living in a country where we have a direct influence on how we are governed. **Our Founding Fathers created a Republic whereby the just powers of our government are derived from the consent of the governed** – and that is brought about by our votes. We are all well aware that voting can be complicated or even difficult at times, but we cannot ignore it. If we do, we are rejecting both a gift and a responsibility that the Lord has given to each and every one of us.

So, my suggestions to everyone as we prepare to vote are these:

- **Go to Confession:** We NEED a purified conscience to see more clearly in these very confusing times.
- **Pray:** We NEED to implore God for His Graces in order to be able to discern well and to ask for the courage to act justly.
- **Study:** The Issues & Policies that either ***do or do not*** conform with the *Teachings of the Catholic Church*.
- **Remain Calm:** Our actions (and our inactions) have consequences, but we MUST strive to trust in the Lord's Divine Providence to bring all things to the *Good*. And what is the *Good*? *The Good is God Himself*.

During His Ministry on earth, Jesus was confronted regularly by both the Religious Authorities and by the Political Authorities of His day. And yet, in each and every encounter, He never let go of doing *the Will of His Father*. In particular, when He was confronted on the matter of 'Politics & Religion' – His response was clear and concise: *"Render unto Caesar that which belongs to Caesar and render unto God that which belongs to God."* (Matthew 22:21 & Mark 12:17) This means that Jesus made this a choice; *a matter of conscience*.

The same holds true for us in terms of 'how' we choose to vote. We should ask ourselves the question: *"Which Policies give to Caesar, and which Policies give to God?"* And if we approach voting in this manner – we will have exercised what's known as *'Voting with a Catholic Conscience.'*

As we all know, there are many in our world today who believe that the Catholic Church should conform itself to the culture of today's secular society. Nothing could be further from *the Truth*. Instead, it is Christ's One, Holy, Catholic, & Apostolic Church, standing in the world (to quote St. Augustine) as *The Incarnation of the City of God* – which must never cease trying to bring the secular world's culture into the *Light of Truth*. **And all of us, as baptized disciples of Christ – play a part in shaping our world's culture through our votes which should always seek to 'render to God and not to Caesar.'**

Pro Deo et Patria – For God & Country!!!



Fr. Peter