



October 31, 2010 The Thirty-first Sunday of Ordinary Time

"But you spare all things, because they are yours, O Lord and lover of souls, for your imperishable spirit is in all things!" Wisdom 11:26-12:1

Dear Friends;

I do not know about you but I will be glad when this election is over. I am tired of pulling all the junk mail out of the box only to throw it in the recycle container at the Post Office.

However elections are important because they help to determine the common good; and the results effect us all. Voting is our minimum responsibility in a democratic society.

In his letter—Deus Caritas Est (God is Love)—Pope Benedict reminds us of our Christian responsibility to build “a just social and civil order, wherein each person receives what is his or her due...” The principles of Catholic social teaching—rooted in the Gospel and our lived faith experience—becomes the framework from which we as Catholics address all issues in the political arena.

This means that Catholics need to be mindful that the economy (as important as that issue is) is not the only issue which should inform our decisions. The California Conference of Catholic Bishops reminds us of the other issues that we need to consider as we approach the Ballot Box:

- The life and dignity of the human person
- Human rights and responsibilities
- The call to family and community,
- The dignity of work and the rights of workers
- The preferential option for those who are poor and vulnerable
- Solidarity and
- Care for God’s creation. (see www.cacatholic.org)

As the editorial in the October 25, 2010 issue of America states: *“Our comprehensively pro-life camp needs to make decisions that are based not only on what is best for the economy but also on what will do the most to protect the most vulnerable among us during this especially dangerous time, to safeguard what is left of our social safety net during a period of accelerating poverty, to bring an end to overseas conflicts that squander human lives and increasingly scarce national resources, and to interrupt the collusion between corporate interests and government agencies that threatens our democracy and environment.”*

Be informed; listen to your conscience and then vote. May the Spirit of God guide us and all our leaders to form a more just society!

Peace,

Fr. Ron