

Pro-Life Homily from October 13, 2020

We must not grow weary in praying that God remove the evil of abortion from our country. With over 60 million babies lost to abortion in the last 50 years we must also ask ourselves what God is calling us to do to end this horrific evil that seems to have taken possession of the soul of our country.

Yes, we must continue to pray, but we must also vote pro-life. I think it is hypocritical to say we are pro-life and then to vote for a candidate that wishes to continue the slaughter of 10's of millions of unborn babies. What could be more important?! There are certainly other things we must also do, but if we wish to save these babies, to save the soul of our country, and perhaps even to save our own souls, we must stand in defense of life at the voting booth.

In Leviticus 19:16 the Bible tells us: You shall not *"stand by idly when your neighbor's life is at stake."* These unborn children's lives are at stake, by the millions!

Our US bishops document, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," Par. No. 13, tells us that:

"In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. "

While the Church does not endorse any particular candidate for office, it does have the obligation to teach on matters that touch on the political spectrum. Catholics are expected to vote based on the priorities of their faith. Voting is thus a moral act.

The Vatican II, in its document *Gaudium et Spes*, par. 76 affirms the Church's obligation to teach even on political matters:

"At all times and in all places, the Church should have true freedom to preach the faith, to teach her social doctrine, to exercise her role freely among men, and also to pass moral judgment in those matters which regard public order when the fundamental rights of a person or the salvation of souls require it."

So the Church teaches principles that touch on the political order. The fundamental right to life of 10's of millions of babies is certainly justification for preaching on this subject!

The first thing we must understand before we cast our vote is that we must not put any political identity or agenda above the principals of our faith. **And we must understand what our goal is.** If it's a moral act to vote, then we have to understand what is the purpose of this moral act? What is our objective that we are trying to achieve?

Well it is very simply put in the Vatican II document, *Gaudium et Spes*, paragraph 74:

"The political community . . . exists for the common good."

That's it in a nutshell! The sole goal of voting as a Catholic is to promote the common good. So far, pretty simple. But this is where it starts to get complex.

Our bishops have told us the *preeminent issue* that we need to focus on in order to promote the common good is ending abortion. There is no other greater issue. This issue has been defined by our shepherds. And I quote:

"The threat of abortion remains our preeminent priority because it directly attacks life itself, because it takes place within the sanctuary of the family, and because of the number of lives destroyed." USCCB, Introductory letter to *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* (2020)

If you think of your own wellbeing, you have many concerns. But if someone has a gun to your head, that becomes your preeminent concern!

There was a time when justice for black people was the *preeminent concern* of our country, because they were not accepted as citizens or treated with even the dignity that is owed to every human being. Looking back to that time, we cannot imagine any Catholic who was well formed in their faith voting for a candidate that would desire to continue this grave injustice.

Once we recognize the preeminent issue of our day, it obliges us.

Ok, so our goal in voting is the common good. And not only is ending abortion the preeminent priority in our election, but Pope Saint John Paul II put it very bluntly and succinctly in his encyclical, the Gospel of Life:

"It is impossible to further the common good without acknowledging and defending the right to life, upon which all the other inalienable rights of individuals are founded and from which they develop."

You can't further the common good if you allow abortion, because abortion pulls out the foundation upon which everything else rests.

There are many issues, but some are foundational.

Cardinal Burke, who used to head the highest court of the Catholic Church, explains:

"There is no element of the common good, no morally good practice, that a candidate may promote and to which a voter may be dedicated, which could justify voting for a candidate who also endorses and supports the deliberate killing of the innocent..."

Cardinal Mueller, who is the prefect emeritus (that is, the former head) of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, when asked about Catholic politicians who support abortion, stated:

"Anyone who would even actively promote the legalization of abortion and euthanasia is not eligible for election as a Catholic, religious person or someone faithful to God, even though he may otherwise do good."

It is no secret that Joe Biden is strongly pro-abortion. This is spelled out in his platform. But I would like to offer one example of the extreme nature of the pro-abortion stance of the Biden/Harris camp. Vice President Joe Biden chose the farthest left leaning senator available to be his running mate. With him being 77 years old, if he is elected president, it is fully possible that he would not be able to fulfill his term and that she would take over as our next president. Here is an example of the kind of person he chose:

When Kamala Harris was California's Attorney General, she praised journalists who regularly filmed and published undercover videos to expose animal welfare abuses. Animals were being abused. People went undercover to take videos to expose it and she praised them for doing this.

But when David Daleiden did the same thing with Planned Parenthood and took undercover video recording them talking about selling aborted baby body parts, instead of going after Planned Parenthood, she vigorously prosecuted him instead. He had exposed an egregious crime committed by Planned Parenthood. But Kamala Harris had his home raided and equipment seized.

In November, as a result of efforts that she initiated, a federal jury in San Francisco awarded Planned Parenthood \$2.3 million after finding Mr. Daleiden guilty of conspiring to commit fraud, trespassing, and violating state and federal recording laws. He has appealed the decision. Let us pray that he wins his appeal and Planned Parenthood be prosecuted for this horrendous crime of selling baby body parts.

We must not lose hope. We have a good God. But there is no guarantee our country will last. Our country may be coming to an end. But we can pray and we know that Jesus will be with us no matter what happens.

In closing I would again like to quote Cardinal Mueller:

"As a brother in the worldwide Christian community and together with all people of good will, I want to say with St. John: "Test the spirits to see whether they are from God" (1 John 4:1). Pope St. John Paul II spoke about the struggle between the culture of life and the culture of death. Are you pro-life or pro-death? That is the question now. God said once to his Chosen People: "I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the Lord, your God." (Deuteronomy 30:19).