

CLARIFICATIONS

I. Voting the Issues, not the Candidates or Parties

Dear Parishioners,

As most parishioners are aware, for the past two months I have included in our bulletin and in announcements at Mass information regarding Official Catholic Church teaching on the various issues that confront us during this election season.

It is particularly important for all of us to understand that our vote does not mean that we agree with or support the personal conduct or personality of a particular candidate, nor pledge our allegiance to a particular political party. What we as good Catholics are voting on are the ISSUES.

Thus, it is necessary for each Catholic voter to examine the Platform of each candidate and vote according to our Catholic Faith.

To further assist us in our decisions I include here a quote from “*Sacramentum Caritatis*” by Pope Benedict XVI in which he posits several “non-negotiable” fundamental values which cannot be compromised:

(Paragraph 83) *“Here it is important to consider what the Synod Fathers described as eucharistic consistency, a quality which our lives are objectively called to embody. Worship pleasing to God can never be a purely private matter, without consequences for our relationships with others: it demands a public witness to our faith. Evidently, this is true for all the baptized, yet it is especially incumbent upon those who, by virtue of their social or political position, must make decisions regarding fundamental values, such as*

- respect for human life, its defense from conception to natural death,
- the family built upon marriage between a man and a woman,
- the freedom to educate one's children and
- the promotion of the common good in all its forms

These values are not negotiable. Consequently, Catholic politicians and legislators, conscious of their grave responsibility before society, must feel particularly bound, on the basis of a properly formed conscience, to introduce and support laws inspired by values grounded in human nature.”

While there are certainly many issues at stake, not all of the issues carry equal weight. These fundamental values are non-negotiable, regardless of what we may think of a particular candidate or a particular political party.

II. Marriage

I received the following email on Thursday 22 October 2020 from the Office of Communications of the Diocese of Raleigh:

“It has been reported that Pope Francis recently made remarks supporting same-sex civil unions in the context of a secular documentary film. A secular documentary film is not a typical, nor appropriate venue to offer definitive teaching on matters of faith and morals. Regardless, the pope’s affirmation of the dignity of all people and his call for respect of all people are rooted in Catholic teaching. These recent comments cannot, however, alter in any way what the Church has received from our Lord, namely that, the marriage covenant, by which a man and a woman form with each other an intimate communion of life and love, has been founded and endowed with its own special laws by the Creator. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1660)”

Along with the above Communication from the Diocese I add the following excerpt from the Catechism, **2358**: *“(Homosexual persons) must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided. These persons are called to fulfill God’s will in their lives...”*

As pastor of St. Brendan I firmly believe that “everyone can have a seat at the table” regardless of sexual orientation, gender identification, political party affiliation, skin color or language group.

Blessings to all,

- Fr. Mark