

Our system of Constitutional Republic offers the greatest opportunity for us as a people to make a difference.

Love ONE ANOTHER

BY: ARCHBISHOP JEROME E. LISTECKI



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November 8, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we look to the landscape of our society, I am reminded of political theories that are set forth as some panacea for the social problems we face. I have heard a few echoed in the presentation of various candidates running for office or espoused by the social commentators on our airwaves.

There are those who offer their theories as the utopian goal. If only this can happen, then we will achieve the ultimate perfection. Then there are those who offer that everyone will achieve an equality in all areas (communism puts this forward). This is attractive to those who believe that everyone has the same intellect, relationships, physical attributes, etc. But the reality is that we are all different. Places where communism has been embraced present a ruling theory of a minor few imposing their will on the masses; there is no equality present.

We live in the real world, and must deal with the inadequacies that we face as a people. Christian anthropology assists in our analysis of the social situation. A theological concept that has been pushed to the wayside is the concept of "Original Sin." This is the sin that was committed by our first parents (Adam and Eve) and passed on to us. It means that we are flawed individuals.

If we attempt to hold up human beings as the model of perfection, our utopias will fail. Because of Original Sin, human beings are flawed but possess free will. Therefore, any attempt at making everything equal will quickly deteriorate. There are always those that will take advantage.

Our Church has a long history of engagement in moral issues. Therefore, there are principles that we engage in any moral analysis. One very striking principle that seems to be ignored by many in the political spectrum is the "end does not justify the means." There are all sorts of justifications for the erroneous actions in order to achieve political goals. Lying, or rather false presentations, is chief among the culprits. This denies the truth necessary to make a prudential judgement. We hear it said many times over, "If only I would have known." But the truth was kept from us.

Aristotle held that politics, the interactions of fellow human beings for the determination of the common good, was the highest engagement for a person. It involved the "polis," or the city. I wonder on a scale of one to ten where Aristotle would place today's modern engagement in politics.

In 1978, I was asked – along with a fellow classmate Fr. Michael Furlan – to co-host a radio show on Group W Westinghouse (WIND 560 AM). Radio was dying and we were part of a new format called "Talk Radio." This has become a staple of the listing genre today.

A survey was taken as to the most interesting topics for the Chicagoland area. It was not surprising that the three top topics were politics, religion and sports. All three were interests of mine, but I have always admired those engaged in politics. It takes a great deal of courage to desire to work for the common good. However, in the makeup of the person, "virtue" can never take a backseat to personal gain, and moral principles must be observed in achievement of goals.

I believe that our system of a Constitutional Republic offers the greatest opportunity for us as a people to make a difference. For this, I will always be grateful to our Founding Fathers for their insights and foresight. Being faithful to our founding principles and exercising them with virtue and integrity will keep us internally strong as a nation.

The first freedom embodied in the Bill of Rights is religious freedom. A reminder that we are responsible to God, and in turn to our brothers and sisters. We pray for our nation, and look to our leader, Jesus, who gives us a clear direction to LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

Sincerely,

Most Reverend Jerome E. ListECKi
Archbishop of Milwaukee



Faith and Fiction Around the Fire | November 17, 2022

Join us for an intimate evening of wine and appetizers with renowned poet and author Joshua Hren (<https://www.joshuahren.com/>) as he reads from both his new book of poems and his recent novel, "Infinite Regress," and we discuss the relationship of faith and art. Free, but must register. Hurry, spots are filling fast!

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Devoted Marriage Retreat with Damon and Melanie Owens of Joyful Ever After

Saturday, December 10, 2022 | Holy Family Parish, Fond du Lac | 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Every marriage needs moments of enrichment, renewal, and a deeper understanding of having Christ at the center. This retreat is designed to help married couples of all ages encounter Christ through the great gift of sacramental marriage. Whether you're just married, in the thick of it with kids, empty nesters or newly retired, this retreat is designed with you in mind. Hurry! Registration ends December 5, 2022 and spots are filling fast. Register today!

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