

From: [Vic Melfa](#)
To: [Vic Melfa](#)
Subject: Action Needed NOW by Catholic Laity, Friends & Clergy
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 6:46:12 PM

Dear American Catholic Laity, Priests & Friends,

I have not written much to you recently, except for the update last month of our [GodANDCountryNow](#) home page where I described the most unusual situation of our Country and Churches, some of the major reasons behind this, and what we should be doing about it, i.e. WHERE WE ARE and WHERE WE ARE GOING NOW.

I am writing this to you today because of the ***urgency in action needed by you and me, as Americans & Christians, and by the clergy of our Churches.*** [Here is the link](#) to a letter from Fr. Frank Pavone, the National Director of Priests for Life, addressed to the hierarchy of our churches about this most important subject. Please read it in its entirety and to see the references I quote. **Here are some essential excerpts.**

Many clerics **and** lay faithful are too often afraid to speak out about “politics” at the risk of offending friends, family, their congregations as well as Canon and Civil Laws. This is right in some circumstances but is not justified when it is a question of Morality and Principle, especially when it is in defense of our required beliefs that come from Jesus Christ Himself! The hierarchy, instead of creating unity, too often discourage and confuse their flock in these matters.

However, our Church documents are very clear about this, saying “At all times and in all places, the Church should have the true freedom to teach the faith, to proclaim its teaching about society, to carry out its task among men without hindrance and to pass moral judgments even in matters relating to politics, when the fundamental rights of man or the salvation of souls requires it”. As Fr. Pavone writes the “duty of the faithful... to pass moral judgments even in matters relating to politicshas been hindered by the kind of guidance that dioceses, Catholic Conferences and the USCCB routinely issue, .. the faithful are told not to engage in any political activity which seeks to support or discredit any political party or candidate” etc.

“Our political divide is not simply about prudential judgments, but

about 'the fundamental rights of man' and 'the salvation of souls' according to the Second Vatican Council, the Catechism, and numerous other sources. When the Republican Party stands firmly for the principle that government cannot authorize the killing of babies, and the Democrat Party firmly rejects that principle by embracing unrestricted abortion, how is it possible for the Church "to proclaim its teaching" without discrediting (implicitly if not explicitly) the political party that so obviously opposes that teaching? As you well know, St. John Paul II called governments that legalize abortion "a tyrant state" (EV, 20). That's pretty discrediting."

"Our federal government is now urging us to speak and teach freely on the moral dimensions of politics and our President recently issued an Executive Order protecting this. This also relates to the rights of clerics to be politically involved and Canon Law affirms this. Unfortunately, their concern often appears to be motivated not by a concern for the good of the Church but by the very types of partisan political agendas that they are warned not to pursue."

"I speak also on behalf of our brothers and sisters in other Christian denominations who are strong allies in the fight for life, family and freedom. Unfortunately, while they have courageously defended the freedom of churches to preach the Gospel and to pass moral judgments even in matters relating to politics, they have found much of the response from Catholic religious leaders to be disheartening."

"But this is an appeal to engage in a dialogue that the circumstances of the moment call for most urgently. The approximately 100,000 political races that comprise the 2020 Elections bring us to an unprecedented choice in America. Never has the political divide been more substantial or consequential. Never has the voice of the Church been more needed; everything we stand for and have fought for is on the line. Be assured, the voice of the Church will be heard, because as you know and as you teach, the Church is more than the hierarchy. We know what is right, we know what the Church teaches, and we know how to win elections. We just would rather not feel like we're fighting without our leaders or, worse, having our leaders fight against us."

Therefore we must all NOW pray and give good example. But also all the clergy must act (are required to) and must lead their flocks! And the laity must urge them to do so and also act in the situations that God has placed us to fulfill our own duties as Faithful Citizens.

As always, your comments are welcome.
Thank you and God Bless you, your families, our Church and our
Country!

With Love AND Truth!
Vic Melfa

Vic@VicMelfa.org

Victor J. Melfa BS, MBA, MA, ABD
College of the Holy Cross, '57
Columbia U., - Northeastern U.
[God AND Country NOW](#)

Cofounder and/or Board Member of:
The Cardinal Newman Society,
Holy Cross Cardinal Newman Society,
Legatus, Ave Maria University,
Worcester Men's Conference,
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VicMelfa.org | P.O Box 994, Westboro, MA 01581

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