

Greetings, Mary, Queen of Heaven family!!

Praised be Jesus Christ!!

Our Presidential election is in 2 weeks. Obviously, it's a very important election that's going to shape our country for the next four years.

I don't consider myself a liberal or a conservative - I am a Catholic. The Catholic Church is not liberal or conservative - the Church is God's voice in this world. God is not liberal or conservative - He is Truth itself.

As with everything else in our life, our voting decisions should be guided by our Catholic faith. Our faith is the foundation of who we are - our faith shapes us.

Our faith comes before a political party. Our being Catholic comes before being a Democrat or Republican. We don't choose a political party based on our individual wants and then try to fit the teachings of the Church into that party. That's backwards. We're Catholic *first*, so in an election we vote for the candidate that most reflects what we believe as Catholics.

There are many issues at stake in this election. The economy, unemployment, health care (especially concerning Covid-19), religious liberty, the environment, foreign policy, helping the poor - the list is long. And all of these issues are very important. But, there is a hierarchy of issues for Catholics. Not all issues carry the same moral weight - some issues are *more important* than others.

The right to life issue is absolutely paramount - it is the most important issue. The right to life issue is more important than the economy, it's more important than the environment, it's more important than everything else.

Those other issues are all important too, but none of them will result in anywhere near the loss of human life that abortion does. The U.S. bishops list abortion as the "preeminent priority" on human life. In January, when a group of U.S. bishops were in Rome, they discussed abortion as the preeminent priority with Pope Francis, he said, "Of course it is."

I recently read a statistic that said about 56% of Catholics think abortion is okay. How did we ever get to a point where Catholics think abortion is okay? It's not okay. Abortion is always evil in every single circumstance. There are no exceptions to this teaching. This has been the teaching of the Catholic Church *forever*. There is no wiggle room on this issue. It has been the teaching of Christ's Church from the beginning and it will be the teaching until our Lord comes again.

It *means* something to say we're Catholic. To be Catholic means that we are *for* protecting the life of a baby in a mother's womb, above all else. So when we enter the voting booth on November 3rd, let's vote for life.

Peace & grace,

Fr. Kevin