

Perseverance in Living Our Faith and a Well-Formed Catholic Voting Conscience

There is one thing that we all know how to do even though we were not taught how to do it. We all know how to complain.

So instead of complaining and succumbing to despair, In the 1st Reading, Moses lifted up his hands to invoke the help of God, and when his arms grew tired, he had support from Aaron and Hur, till Israel prevailed over the enemy.

So the lesson that we can learn: If we want to complain, then complain to the One who can help us. Moses raised up his hands to God to invoke His help.

The Responsorial Psalm: Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

When we lift up our eyes to heaven and lift up our hearts to the Lord, the Lord God will do what is right and just for us.

As long as we persevere in fighting against evil, we will win, but like Moses we need help: a rock to rest on and companions to hold up our tired arms.

Our help is the Church and her Sacraments, in our guardian angel, and in our good companions on earth and in the Communion of Saints.

In the Second Reading St. Paul says: "I charge you ...be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient."

In the Gospel, The widow's goal was for a just ruling; the obstacle was the unjust judge; perseverance in asking was her means of overcoming that obstacle and achieving her just ruling.

Because we cannot see the justice God has actually done for us yet, we must persevere until the end.

The obstacle is the difficulty of remaining faithful. This means keep doing the right thing whether it is easy or hard.

We also need the light of Divine Revelation to see our path and we have this in the Scriptures and Teachings of the Church.

And that is what the gospel parable is telling us – the need to pray continually and never lose heart, and that God will console us.

We live today in a world which may be termed "instant." Instant communication, instant coffee, and instant food. Thus, in every area of our lives, we expect instant results. We are hardly prepared to wait.

This leads to the inability on the part of many to be patient and, to an even greater degree, a lack of perseverance.

Keep in mind that that God will always do what is best for us.

The Gospel ends with a question "But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

In order to answer affirmatively, we need to be like the persistent Widow, Moses, and Joshua, and not give up or give in even when we imagine that we are fighting a losing battle. We need to persevere in the face of all odds.

Living our Faith in our Country and the World is a challenging situation we face today.

Lately parishioners have mentioned to me they are so confused about who to vote for in the coming election.

For many, the presidential election will involve a choice between the lesser of two evils as both candidates are flawed.

I acknowledge the choices we have are not very good however, we need to have Trust in the Lord and His plan for our Nation and World.

Each Catholic citizen has the privilege and duty to participate in our Nation's governing by the exercise of our constitutional right to vote in national, state and local elections.

At the heart of all Catholic moral and social teaching is that the respect given to an individual human person must always be first and must govern every law and action so that the person's life and dignity is always and everywhere protected and defended.

All the other social, economic, and political issues only gain importance from the fundamental issue of the respect for the individual person and the sacredness of each person's life and God-given dignity.

Our votes as Catholic citizens have to focus on how each party's platform supports:

- Human life from Conception through natural death,
- The Freedom of Religion
- and the Freedom of Conscience,
- the Family, and the Poor.

Enter the Voting Booth with your well-formed Catholic conscience.

Let us Pray:

Heavenly Father, We pray for discernment and perseverance, so we may choose leaders, who hear your Word, live your Love, and keep the ways of your Truth.

Praise Be Jesus Christ, Now and Forever, Amen!