



Focus on Religious Freedom

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Voting for a Vision, Not a Person

Excerpts from National Catholic Register (NCR), October 17, 2020:

"Pray, and vote - for the future of your country." Michael Warsaw, publisher NCR

"In this year's election, the choice isn't really between" two presidential candidates - "it is a choice between two completely different views of America."

"One campaign has built itself on the notion that America is a great country, with much to offer. It embraces a vision that sees religious practice and belief in God as central to the country's private and public life." In this understanding of America, faith is not to be exiled behind a misconstrued 'wall of separation' but "is "critical to the flourishing of America."

"Under this view of America, people of faith are seen as a large part of the solution to the challenges our country faces, just as they have been central to so many positive movements in American history - from the right-to-life movement... to the great causes for justice and rights of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries."

"This view does not hold that everything (or every founder) in America is perfect." But it does believe that "the tools exist within our Constitution and system of government to fix those problems that arise without having to completely change our system of laws and government."

The other campaign's view is that "America has much to atone for and little to be proud of. Traditional religious ... values are seen as a form or vehicle for discrimination, not a central element of the country." "Abortion isn't just celebrated: its export with taxpayers' dollars" is a priority for them." Religious freedom, including conscientious objections by the Little Sisters of the Poor, are dismissed and subverted.

"America's progress in areas of racial equality" and hope of improvement within the present system is dismissed. Religious people who disagree with a "redefinition of sexual values and the family" are "labeled bigots." "Traditional religious beliefs are seen as a major threat to the country, and religious values are seen as out of step with the newfound progressive ones. So called American "imperialism" is condemned but the "imperialism of communist countries" is overlooked. Overlooked too, is that "a religion-embracing America that believes its peoples' rights come from God has done better for its people over time..."

These visions, "more than the candidates themselves, are what is on the ballot. We are casting our vote for a long-term vision of America, not for a person."

(ncregister.com/author/michael-warsaw, October 17, 2020)

Election Prayer

Lord God, enlighten the minds of our people in America. May we choose a President of the United States, and other government officials, according to Your Divine Will. Give our citizens the courage to choose leaders of our nation who respect the sanctity of unborn human life, the sanctity of marriage, the sanctity of the family, and the sanctity of the aging. Grant us the wisdom to give You, what belongs to You, our God. If we do this, as a nation, we are confident You will give us an abundance of Your blessings through our elected leaders. Amen.

Composed by Father John Anthony Hardon, S.J.