

October 25, 2020 – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Parishioners

There is a famous saying that you see as much as you know, and you love as much as you see.” The more you know, the more your horizons get broadened so that you can see better both earthly things and heavenly matters. The more you see, the more you can love them. In today’s Gospel, Jesus talks about our love for God and for our neighbor. We need to know better the divine mysteries, his plans and will so as to love Him and our neighbor better. It is imperative for us to know His commandments and how they are applied in our daily lives. We need to know what is right or wrong in light of the will of God and why is it so. In that way, we can see better the presence of God in our lives so that we can love Him with all our hearts, all our souls, and all our minds. Also, we can see better the difficulties and needs of our neighbor so that we can love them as ourselves.

In about ten days, there will be a presidential election in this country. How can we exercise our love for God and for our neighbor through it? If we can vote for a candidate who fully supports the teachings of the Catholic Church, it would be ideal. However, unfortunately and sadly, none of the candidates fully advocates the Catholic social teachings. There are a variety of moral issues at stake as you may know: Migration, xenophobia and racism, human trafficking, abortion, euthanasia, death penalty, human embryo issues, definitions and values of marriage and family, unemployment and poverty, global conflict and terror, freedom of religion, the COVID19, care for creation, etc.

What we prioritize among these issues will determine our choice. We should base our decision not on our affiliation to a certain political party or the benefits we, our families, or our friends might get but on the most urgent and preeminent needs that must be taken care of for the Kingdom of God to be established on earth; the Kingdom of justice, peace and love. Thus, we, as Catholics, have an obligation to let the guidelines given by God through the Church form our conscience. By doing so, we can truly love God and our neighbor as Jesus taught us in situations where we find ourselves by faithfully following the guidelines.

The US bishop's conference made the following statement. So, this is the official position of the leaders of Roman Catholic Church in the States: "The threat of abortion remains our preeminent priority because it directly attacks life itself, because it takes place within the sanctuary of the family, and because of the number of lives destroyed." Although we should not ignore the other issues, the threat of abortion has importance and seriousness that surpass all other issues. The unborn is the most vulnerable members of our society because they cannot defend or protect themselves, nor can they raise their voices to claim their rights. It may be even a hypocrisy to talk about all other rights when the right to birth is not guaranteed. The other issues are incomparable to abortion because they can be either temporary or at least those involved can directly fight for their rights.

Abortion is a very sensitive issue, yet the position of the Church on it has been, is, and will be clear and firm. May the guidelines of the Church enable us to see the urgent and preeminent needs of the unborn so that we may try our best to exercise our love for God and for our neighbor at the upcoming election!

Fr. Don Bosco Park