

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- For these first two weeks in October...
 - the Archbishop has asked...
 - all the priests and deacons in the Archdiocese...
 - to focus on the upcoming election...and the fundamental issue of life...
 - specifically on proposition 115.
 - He had us do something similar a few years ago...on Euthenasia.
 - So if you didn't hear...or didn't read...Deacon Kevin's homily from last week...
 - I encourage you to [check it out](#).
 - It provides good background for my own.
 - And everytime I preach on this topic...
 - I get at least one person coming back to the Lord through confession...
 - someone who has carried the weight of this burden for years.
 - If that's you...carry it no more...
 - Jesus loves you...and He wants to set your heart free.
 - So let him!
- We're obviously approaching the election...mail in ballots are going out...
 - and you may have noticed...
 - that we have some folks in our parish...
 - that are pretty passionate about politics...
 - maybe you're one of them.
 - I'm not!
- I hate politics! Always have.
 - In fact...
 - I didn't even vote...until I was ordained priest.
 - And even then...
 - while I started voting...because I finally realized the importance...
 - I've complained to the Lord...a lot about it...over the years.
 - Maybe you have as well.
 - In fact...
 - One time...several years ago...
 - I was complaining about the candidates we had to vote for...
 - and the Lord said to me quite clearly:
 - *"As a nation...you get the candidates that you deserve."*
 - So if we don't like the candidates...
 - we can't just point the finger at them...
 - or at the political process...
 - we need to point it at ourselves.
 - We've all got a lot of work to do...
 - when it comes to following the Lord.
- And our God...He is so simple.
 - It's actually...so easy to do His will.
 - We're the ones...who make it complicated.

- We know that God is Love...He must love...because He is Love itself.
 - So He loves us...all of us...
 - and He asks us to love others in return.
 - And that's it...
 - there really are no other laws or commandments.
 - But as soon as you start asking questions...like...
 - Who should I love...
 - How should I love...
 - Should I love someone...even if they do this or that...
 - As soon as you start asking those types of questions...
 - then you know just how complicated...our hearts have become.
- If you think about it...
 - it all started with one simple law: *"Don't"*
 - Don't eat the apple.
 - Don't eat the fruit of the tree...of the knowledge...of good and evil.
 - But we did...
 - and things have been getting...**less** clear...and **more** complicated...ever since.
- I mean...we went from that One simple law...
 - to the Ten Commandments...
 - to the 613 laws in the Jewish Torah...
 - then came the Midrash...
 - the commentaries and interpretations
 - of each and every one of those 613 Laws.
 - And things kept getting...
 - less clear...more complicated...
 - as more questions came up.
- And have you seen how many laws we have...in the Catholic Church...
 - whether in the Code of Canon Law...
 - or things like the norms that govern our diocese?
 - I'm not saying they're bad...
 - in fact they're good...they're a valiant attempt...
 - to try and answer those questions:
 - Who should I love...how should I love...
 - But our fallen hearts...they simply don't get it.
 - We need further clarification.
 - And so...more laws...continue to be added...as more questions come up
- And then there are Civil laws.
 - You want to talk about making life...less clear...and more complicated!
 - Listen to these:
 - In Missouri...
 - you can't drive down the street...
 - with an uncaged bear in your car.
 - If there are laws like that on the books...
 - you know...that common sense...is not so common.

- And did you know...
 - that there's actually a federal law...
 - that you can be imprisoned...for giving a false weather report.
 - Talk about a much needed law...that's never enforced!
- All joking aside...the point is clear...
 - the further we get from the Lord...and His ways for us...
 - the more laws we need...
 - just to try and hold things together.
- Things were so much more simple and clear...
 - at the beginning of Genesis...
 - but by the 11th chapter...
 - at the Tower of Babel...we learned a valuable lesson.
 - Whatever is not of the Lord in our society...
 - it must eventually come down.
- Isn't that what's happening in our world right now?
 - We're losing our common ground...
 - we're losing our focus on the Lord.
 - Opposing sides are going to extremes...
 - and it could all...very easily...come down.
- So what do we do?
 - Praying for others...acts of charity...those are a given.
 - But remembering that God is so simple...
 - we need to focus on the basics...
 - on the simple things...that truly help us to love.
 - Laws that help us to care for the environment...
 - or for people in need of things like...
 - housing, food and work...those are good.
 - Laws that tackle things like...
 - hatred...racism...and violence...those are great...
 - but they all pale in comparison...
 - to the basic gift of life...
 - because for those people...
 - who cannot take...
 - even one single breath outside of the womb...
 - none of these other things...
 - that we care so passionately about...
 - none of these other things matter...
 - not for that particular soul.
- Back in January...
 - Pope Francis himself agreed with a group of bishops...
 - in identifying the protection of the unborn...as a preeminent priority.
 - He said:
 - *“Of course it is. It's the most fundamental right. This is not first a religious issue...it's a human rights issue.”*

- My brothers and sisters...
 - this is not...a conservative or liberal issue...
 - this is not...a republican or democrat issue...
 - or any of the other ways...
 - that we've allowed the devil...
 - to divide and conquer us...
 - while we tear each other apart.
 - This is something that should be...
 - so simple and clear...that it doesn't even need a law.
 - But it does!
 - Because we've wandered so far from the Lord...
 - these kind of simple truths...
 - are no longer clear.
 - And for those of us...who can still clearly see...
 - we need to do all that we can...to protect these innocent lives.
 - We need to vote!
 - Whether it's on the national level...
 - the local level...
 - but certainly with Proposition 115.
 - As Deacon Kevin said last week...
 - we are one of only 7 states in the entire nation...
 - that allow abortion...
 - up to the moment...that child...can take its first breath.
 - Let's end that...
 - by voting [Yes on Proposition 115](#)...
 - and limiting abortion beyond 22 weeks.
 - And Deacon Kevin also mentioned...
 - [great ways that we can better care for the women](#)...
 - who are making these kinds of difficult decisions.
 - Check out [his homily](#) if you haven't.
- But in the end...
 - We all know...
 - that no political party or candidate...
 - is ever going to save us.
 - None of them...
 - despite what they promise...
 - can stop it...from all coming down.
 - Only Jesus can.
 - So we need to return to Him...
 - with our whole hearts.
 - And continuously beg His mercy...
 - on our much beloved land.