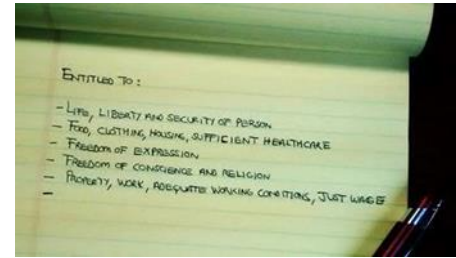


ENTITLED TO WHAT?

I came across a Facebook posting with the photo of a blank piece of paper with the caption: "Everything you're entitled to and what the world owes you."

Catholics answer differently.



In 1979, Saint John Paul II addressed the United Nations General Assembly where he articulated the Catholic response:

"Permit me to enumerate some of the most important human rights that are universally recognized:

- * The right to life, liberty and security of person;
- * The right to food, clothing, housing, sufficient health care, rest and leisure;
- * The right to freedom of expression, education and culture;
- * The right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and the right to manifest one's religion either individually or in community, in public or in private;
- * The right to choose a state of life, to found a family and to enjoy all conditions necessary for family life;
- * The right to property and work, to adequate working conditions and a just wage;
- * The right of assembly and association;
- * The right to freedom of movement, to internal and external migration;
- * The right to nationality and residence;
- * The right to political participation and the right to participate in the free choice of the political system of the people to which one belongs.

All these human rights taken together are in keeping with the substance of the dignity of the human being, understood in his entirety, not as reduced to one dimension only.

As elections approach, keeping in mind what one is and is not entitled to will be helpful as you cast your vote. Pay particular attention to the "entitlements," - the rights - that are commanding the attention of the electorate: the right to:

- * Life
- * Food
- * Clothing
- * Housing
- * Sufficient health care
- * Property
- * Work
- * Adequate working conditions
- * Just wage

