My Dear People of God,

As November the 3rd quickly approaches, we are reminded of the importance of participating in our civic duty to vote. I encourage those who have not yet cast their vote to prayerfully do so. As Catholics, we are to approach this duty as informed individuals on the pressing issues at hand.

Also, we have a responsibility to see to it that our consciences are formed through the guidance of the Word of God, along with the Catechism and Magisterium of the Catholic Church. It is all important that there be a conscientious effort made on our part as Catholics, not only, to be informed but also to be formed as we prepare to vote. It is each Catholic's responsibility to become familiar with the Church's "non- negotiable" issues. As faithful Catholics, we are called and challenged to witness to: the sanctity of life - from conception to natural death; family life concerns; sexual morality; peace; an end to racism and many more life and justice issues in regard to our Catholic Social Teaching. We are to vote with our conscience, but one that is formed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As the Catholic community, we are to be reminded that our Catholic Faith is not to be shelved as we go to the voting booths. We, as faithful Catholics, and as faith-filled citizens, need the guidance of the Holy Spirit to assist us in doing the best we can as we discern, decide and cast our vote in this important election year.

As we look forward to November 3, I direct your attention to https://www.cacatholic.org/faq for more information. The website is an informative resource for Catholics and it provides helpful answers to FAQ's about the Church, politics and the Catholic vote.

Let us pray for our nation during this time of civil unrest and uncertainty. May Our Lady, the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the United States, intercede for us as we pray for peace within our country. Then, with God's blessing, as faithful citizens, let us cast our vote!

In the Peace of Christ,

+Myron J. Cotta

Bishop Myron J. Cotta