

St Brigid & St Patrick

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October 25, 2020

HOW DOES JESUS COMMAND US TO VOTE?

(Voting as a disciple of Christ the King)

This week, we cover **Part III** of a 14-question article by *Fr. Stephen Torracco* on behalf of EWTN (last week we covered questions 4-7):



8. What if none of the candidates are completely pro-life?

As Pope John Paul II explains in his encyclical, *Evangelium Vitae* (The Gospel of Life), "...when it is **not possible** to overturn or completely abrogate a pro-abortion law, an elected official, whose absolute personal opposition to procured abortion was well known, could licitly support proposals aimed at **limiting the harm done** by such a law and at lessening its negative consequences at the level of general opinion and morality. This does not in fact represent an illicit cooperation with an unjust law, but rather a legitimate and proper attempt to limit its evil aspects." Logically, it follows from these words of the Pope that a voter may likewise vote for that candidate who will most likely limit the evils of abortion or any other moral evil at issue.

9. What if one leading candidate is anti-abortion except in the cases of rape or incest, another leading candidate is completely pro-abortion, and a trailing candidate, not likely to win, is completely anti-abortion. Would I be obliged to vote for the candidate not likely to win?

In such a case, the Catholic voter may clearly choose to vote for the candidate not likely to win. In addition, the Catholic voter may assess that voting for that candidate might only benefit the completely pro-abortion candidate, and, precisely for the purpose of curtailing the evil of abortion, decide to vote **for the leading candidate** that is anti-abortion but not perfectly so. This decision would be in keeping with the words of the Pope quoted in *question 8* above.

10. What if all the candidates from whom I have to choose are pro-abortion? Do I have to abstain from voting at all? What do I do?

Obviously, one of these candidates is going to win the election. Thus, in this dilemma, you should do your best to judge which candidate would do the least moral harm. However, as explained in *question 5* above, you should **not** place a candidate who is pro-capital punishment (and anti-abortion) in the same moral category as a candidate who is pro-abortion. Faced with such a set of candidates, there would be no moral dilemma, and the clear moral obligation would be to vote for the candidate who is pro-capital punishment, not necessarily because he is pro-capital punishment, but because he is anti-abortion. (*Capital punishment is not an intrinsic evil. However, abortion is indeed an intrinsic evil; it is always wrong. Plus, capital punishment involves one who is guilty of a crime. Abortion involves an innocent person.*)

11. Is not the Church's stand that abortion must be illegal a bit of an exception? Does not the Church generally hold that government should restrict its legislation of morality significantly?

The Church's teaching that abortion should be illegal is not an exception. **St. Thomas Aquinas** put it this way: "*Wherefore human laws do not forbid all vices, from which the virtuous abstain, but only the more grievous vices, from which it is possible for the majority to abstain; and chiefly those that are to the hurt of others, without the prohibition of which human society could not be maintained: thus human law prohibits murder, theft and such like.*". Abortion qualifies as a grievous vice that hurts others, and the lack of prohibition of this evil by society is something by which human society cannot be maintained. As *Pope John Paul II* has emphasized, the denial of the right to life, in principle, sets the stage, in principle, for the denial of all other rights.

(The rest of these 14 questions next week)

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

(ANY CHANGES, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE.)

Katherine Salwei, Loretta Lovcik, Whitney & baby O'Toole, John Christianson, Betty Novak, Pauline Dusek, Patricia Rodvold, Jane Zidon, Marla Zidon, Dorothy Snell, Heidi Gustafson, Adriane Wellman, Isabelle Copeland, Tracy Letzring, Cindy Hartje, Kelly Morrison, Jody Deibert, Vicki Bleick, Allison Bleick, Dale Hultin, Bob McCartney, Lonnie Guderjahn, Susie Dimsha, Sherry McDonald, Shelbie Goodoien, Oliver Goodoien, Dorothy Scholler, Brent Collins, Merle Larson, Robert O'Toole, Ruth Rieger, Melanie Fischer, Ruth Ivesdahl, Mae Jackson, Carol Smith, Mary Louise, Bernard & Aletha Schommer, Brianna Fernandez, Brett & Rick Letzring, Jane Grazadzieleski, Rick Kilichowski & Gary Olson

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION!

Family Faith Formation continues this week, October 28. Grades 1-8 will dive into Chapter Five! The high school group will meet at St. Brigid this week.

ST PATRICK ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pray the Rosary: Sundays at 8:00am. **Adoration with Confessions:** Sat. at 8:00am, Sun 8 am. The **November Church Cleaners:** Jim & Melissa Young; Fred & Mary Thoelke; & Andrea Douville. **Collection:** Don and Duane (Oct 25); Dianne & Melissa (Nov 1); **Reader:** Jim Y (Oct 25); Sherry (Nov 1). **Sanctuary Lamp:** Frances Houska (Oct 25); Goodoien Angel Babies (Nov. 1). **Sacristan:** Melissa (Oct 25); Mary T. (Nov 1). **Rosary:** Jim Y (Oct 25); Volunteer (Nov 1).

ST BRIGID ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pray the Rosary: JOIN US ON SUNDAYS AT 10:00AM. **Adoration with Confessions:** WED. & FRI. AT 11:00AM, SAT. 4-5 PM, MON 5-5:15 PM. **Church cleaners:** A-F. **Collection:** Trevor and Scott M (Oct 25); Larry & Kay (Nov 1). **Readers** (Nov.): Sat.-Richard S.; Sun.-Larry; **Sanctuary Lamp:** Richard Sandison (Oct. 25); Seth Christianson (Nov 1)

Mass Intentions!

Monday, Oct. 26—5:15 pm, Cameron Allex
Tuesday, Oct. 27—8:00 am, Sarah Humphreys
Wednesday, Oct. 28—Noon, Kim Alex
Thursday, Oct. 29—8:00 am, Scott & Mary Salwei
Friday, Oct. 30—Noon, + Brian Rosst
Saturday, Oct. 31—9:00 am, Both Parishes; 5:00 pm, Larry Schill Family
Sunday, Nov. 1—8:30 am, The President of the United States; 10:30 am, Pro Populo

24-Hours of Adoration to pray for our nation's elections! Our elections on November 3rd are literally a matter of life and death. Consequently, we are having a 24-hour period of Adoration at St. Brigid from midnight Monday (Nov 2) to midnight Tuesday (Nov 3). Please sign up for at least one hour. The sign-up sheets will be in the back of the church. May God give us wisdom and courage.

Stewardship (10-18-20)	St Brigid	St Patrick		St Brigid	St Patrick
Adult Envelope	4820.00	260.00	St Patrick's Care Collection Oct 2020		215.00
Plate	68.00		God's Gift Appeal Goal 2020	23,768.00	8,928.00
Weekly Total	4888.00	260.00	God's Gift Appeal Actual	16,063.82	8,450.36
Yearly Actual Total			Percent of Members Participating	47%	73%
Monthly Envelope Building Fund	355.00		Cemetery	3,225.00	5,063.51
St Pat Tuckpointing \$54,955.00			World Mission	265.00	90.00
St Patrick Sidewalk Repair \$11,080.00	Total Cost	66,035.00			
Funds Raised for both Projects		60,693.90	St Bernard Cemetery		235.00
Monthly Envelopes Building Fund		4,040.00	St Anthony Cemetery	2020.00	
Balance needed for Sidewalk Repair		1,601.00	St Helen Cemetery	870.00	