

Dear Parishioners,

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First off, I want publicly to thank Daniel Faber for the amazing work he did fixing up the pavilion behind my rectory. I know that after I arrived July 1st, I saw Daniel working out in some pretty extreme heat to get the job done. This was an Eagle Scout project for him. That means he had to do everything to make the project happen... from raising the money to executing the plan he designed. I think the pavilion will serve many purposes for years to come. Perhaps I'll make that the central spot for our annual blessing on Sunday, October 4th, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi?

Second, we are all aware that we are coming up to the election of the next President of the United States of America. Although the Church will not take any stand to promote one party over another, we do want to provide abundant help to everybody, when it comes to forming the human conscience. Every human being has the obligation, built into one's conscience, to seek the truth. It is not enough for a Catholic simply to “go with the flow” of the mainstream media and modern trends in any area of life, politics included. So, you will see many resources offered through our bulletin and social media over the coming weeks.

Hopefully many of you were able to listen to the interview our own Bishop Thomas did with Peter Range on Annunciation Radio, September 3rd. If you missed the interview, you can find it online at Annunciation Radio's website: <https://www.annunciationradio.com/say-yes-to-life.html>. Or you could download the podcast for Peter's show, “Say Yes to Life”, and the interview will be there.

In addition to that informational interview, please avail yourself of the “Conscience and the Catholic Voter” series, recommended by our own Bishop Thomas, and written by Peter Range. We are publishing the series on our social media, as well as through the bulletin. The series – 8 one-page articles, easy to read – covers the following topics: Catholic Social Teaching, Abortion, Marriage and the Family, Religious Freedom, Immigration, Racism, Socialism, Environment. The Bishop has asked that this series be heavily advertised and made readily available to every Catholic in the Diocese. You can find the whole series here on the web: <https://toledodiocese.org/page/conscience-and-the-catholic-voter>. Note the Bishop's own words in the forward he writes to this series:

In this election year, there is no doubt that we are faced with a choice between two deeply flawed candidates, and that neither party perfectly aligns with our Gospel values. As Catholics, we do not cast votes based on whether we like or dislike the personality of the candidates; we do not cast votes based on whether the candidate does or does not have the same color of skin as us; we do not cast votes based on the age or gender of the candidates; we do not cast votes based on the political party a family has or has not endorsed in the past; we do not cast votes based on whether the person does or does not share our religious affiliation..... Instead, as Catholics, we need to ask ourselves which party platform, which evident actions and voting records of candidates are more closely aligned to what we hold to be true and just, and whether any of these are directly opposed to the consistent fundamental moral teachings of the Church.

In addition to that written series, beginning September 12th, Peter Range will host a video series called *The Catholic Vote*, released by Awaken Catholic, a partnership with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Toledo. You can find that video series here: <https://www.awakencatholic.org/election>.

Please spread these resources far and wide, to all the Catholics you know, so that we can all vote with the mind of Jesus, from the Heart of the Church, when it comes to the issues most impacting human life. Remember how St. Paul wrote to the Romans (to us!): “Do not be conformed to this world, but be

transformed by the renewal of your mind...” (Romans 12:2). Using all the materials I mention above will help us immensely towards such a transformation of mind, as we exercise our privilege and duty to vote in the upcoming election.

Have a blessed week!

In cordibus Iesu et Mariae,

Father Poggemeyer