

*"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself,
take up his cross, and follow me. " (Mark 8:34)*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Another election year. The U.S.A. is a constitutional republic, where citizens govern the country through elected representatives. Our loving, Heavenly Father, God who gave us life, He put us in this place and time, and gave us this country the United States of America. Our decisions and votes will shape future of the country and influence the world. Because of our dereliction of duty of selecting and voting-in good candidates in the past, the United States has changed from a country built on Christian values to one where Christianity is under constant assault. Under the pretext of *separation of church and state* which have no basis in the constitution or founding documents, the Ten Commandments and other Christian symbols were removed from public buildings, and on many occasions from private properties. Many private businesses are working in an environment which is hostile to the religious beliefs of their owners and employees. Public schools are not teaching any more about the importance of Christian faith in creating, shaping and bringing prosperity to our country. At the same time, we are bombarded by mass media with selected information, news and opinions, not to inform, but on many occasions to manipulate viewers, to create confusion and make it harder to select the right candidate.

By supporting and electing our representatives we are giving them the power to make changes for better or worse, and for this reason we bear the responsibility for actions they will take on our behalf.

By not opposing **pro-choice** candidate we are allowing abortion, the murder of thousands of unborn babies to continue. Life is an act of love which starts in God's heart and at the moment of conception is planted into a woman's womb. It is God's will becoming flesh, a human being before and after birth, *"born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."* (John 1:13) If taking someone's life is acceptable for a Christian as vengeance, which belongs to God, the designated civil authority, or on some occasions to individual (St. Thomas Aquinas Summa Theologiae), abortion is an act of murder performed on innocent baby and cannot be authorized by government.

If we won't vote out **pro same-sex** marriage politicians, we are allowing them to promote, and on many occasion to force, through appointed judge's, an unnatural, sinful, having nothing to do with real love, style of life on society, for which God wiped off the face of the earth Sodom and Gomorrah.

An intrusive government interfering in the economy and everyday citizens life is called socialism and is listed in the Syllabus of Errors by Pope Bl. Pius IX, addressed in encyclicals, Rerum Novarum by Leo XIII, and Mater et Magistra, by St. John XXIII, which state that any such interference must be opposed by Catholics and the Catholic Church. We are bound by conscience to accept and follow the teachings contained in these documents, thus it is our duty to remove from positions of power through the electoral process **pro big government** representatives.

Politicians using divisive tactics, via gender, color of the skin, economic status, etc. in order to be elected or stay in power by pitting women against men, black against white, poor against rich, planting evil, hostile feelings in our hearts and in our country, have to be opposed. *Blessed are the peacemakers.* (Matthew 5:9)

These are four simple criteria which every Christian must take first under consideration while choosing they representatives.

In this selection we have to be careful and follow the advice of Our Lord; *"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but underneath are ravenous wolves."* Many candidates will talk a good talk, but if they fail in even in one of those matters listed above, we are obligated to vote against them, we should expect that if it comes to other matters they will end up on the wrong side; *"Just so, every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, **nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit.**"* (Matthew 7:15, 17-18)

Many of them will say, I am pro-life or for traditional marriage while campaigning for office. They may not reveal their position in those matters, in this situation we may find out more about them by checking positions of the people or organizations they are associated with or supported by. Candidates appearing at Gay-pride parades, supporting transgender bathrooms or endorsed by Planned Parenthood cannot be supported or voted for, with a clear conscience by a Catholic. It is the obligation of each Catholic to vote them out.

By neglecting our duty as citizens, we are allowing evil to flourish in the country God gave to us, and that is against His will.

Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord!" will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of My Father in heaven. (Matthew 7:21)

Know, Love and Serve God