

NO HEADS IN THE SAND...

Recently, I was speaking to a lady who used to be our former cook up at my first parish in Westchester. Besides being really a wonderful Italian cook (specialties like spaghetti with clams and pork chops with vinegar peppers), she is a very faithful Catholic, going to Mass each day and spending time in Eucharistic Adoration. After exchanging some pleasantries on the phone, she got right to the point and said, "Tell me, how come you "Guys" (meaning the priests) are not speaking up about this election and all the moral issues involved?"

Well, I told her that she had a point. Some of us priests suffer from "Terminal nice-guyness" in that we don't say what we should for fear of offending people. That is not good because people need to know the truth in making decisions. I further went on to explain that the church cannot endorse any candidate in an election. Of course we can and should compare the two candidates on the issues and their party's platforms.

A few weeks ago, I wrote a bulletin article about the 2016 election and pointed out that while both candidates were flawed, Mrs. Clinton and the Democratic platform had veered far to the left on some very significant moral issues for Catholics. Specifically, I mentioned abortion. Well, someone took the article I wrote and put a few copies of it in the mailboxes of the priests in a local parish here on Staten Island. In response, I received a very thoughtful but critical letter from one of the priests in the parish. He basically said, "You just focused on abortion while there are so many other important issues to consider such as cloning, racism, poverty, etc.

Now while it is true that these issues are important, still abortion is an ongoing holocaust that is destroying the moral fabric of our country. Since the horrendous Roe VS. Wade decision in 1973, there have been 60 million abortions. Who knows what these children might have become had they been given the chance?

I think we know that there are deep divisions in the Catholic Church today. Politicians know how to exploit these divisions skillfully. For instance, at the final debate on October 19th, Mrs. Clinton squarely put her support behind the horrible procedure known as "Partial Birth Abortion." Partial birth Abortion refers to the procedure where a living fetus is delivered until the head of the body is outside the mother's body and then killed. It is truly a terrible thing.

The next night, at the Al Smith dinner in Manhattan, Mrs. Clinton thought nothing of quoting the Holy Father Pope Francis and how she stands in admiration of his Papacy and his teachings! Well, we all know that Pope Francis defends the Right to Life which is after all the most fundamental of all our human rights. Funny or not so funny that she forgot to mention that?

This week, November 8th, is Election Day. It is a very important day for us as citizens. Every one of us should get out and vote because elections have consequences and as Catholics we cannot put our "Heads in the Sand." Before voting this year, it would behoove us all to pray to the Lord for our country and for wisdom in making the right choices. Here at St. Charles we will have an all night Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on the eve of Election Day. Let us pray to Him who truly is our Supreme and total ruler!

Sincerely in Christ,
Father Jerome