

WHEN I'M THE PRESIDENT...

The late comedian Eddie Cantor sang a funny song many years ago that was entitled. "When I'm The President." The song began with these lyrics, "I'm not a politician so what I say is true-if you send me to Washington, here's what I'm going to do!" I suppose it's no surprise to us in the year 2016 that many of our politicians do lie or stretch the truth somewhat in order to get elected. A little girl once asked her father, "Daddy, do all fairy tales begin with once upon a time?" He replied, "No dear, some begin with , "When I'm elected!" We are all aware that we are now in a presidential election year. In fact, this Monday there will be a debate between the two contenders Hilary Clinton and Donald Trump right across the river here at Hofstra University. While the Catholic church and her leaders do not dictate to people the candidates they should vote for, still we can state the facts and let them stand for themselves. The truth is that both candidates are flawed. The Republican candidate Mr. Trump has made some absolutely outlandish statements that have caused many people to shake their heads. Mrs. Clinton's e-mail scandal has been trumpeted all over the news this past year. Yes, we all know that both candidates are not perfect. That being said, the Democratic platform on which Hilary Clinton and Tim Kaine stands is one of the most liberal in history. One vitally important concern that we must consider as faithful Catholics is the central issue of legalized abortion in our land. Bill Clinton when he was president stated that abortion should be "Safe, legal, and rare." But his wife in 2016 has abandoned that position. Hilary has in fact embraced a "Maximalist" pro-choice position on abortion. The Democratic platform says: "We believe that safe abortion must be part of comprehensive maternal and women's health care and included as part of America's global health programming." Furthermore, Clinton and the Democrats for the first time are advocating the repeal of the Hyde Amendment which prohibits direct federal funding for abortion. Yes, under a Clinton administration our tax dollars would be used to promote an anti-life agenda. Also the Democratic platform espouses a "progressive" view concerning religious freedom. In other words, our right to freely speak out about certain issues such as gay marriage would be considered as "discrimination" and thus a crime! The Republican Party platform on the other hand asserts that "The unborn child has a fundamental right to life" and opposes the use of federal funds to perform or promote abortions. The platform supports the traditional view of marriage as being between a man and a woman. Catholics need to wake up and make the right decisions in the voting booth on November 8th, Election Day. My good friend Deacon Jim Stahlnecker is spearheading a "Prayer Campaign" this election year because what is at stake is very important to our country and our position as Catholics and as citizens. The night before Election Day we will have an all night Eucharistic Vigil here at St. Charles starting off with a Mass celebrated by Bishop John J. O'Hara. All of us certainly need to pray for our country because it is no doubt that we are on a "Slippery Slope" morally speaking. Let us prayerfully navigate this election season with an overriding conviction. That above all we honor our greatest leader Jesus Christ by our choices in the voting booth this Fall!

Sincerely in Christ,

Father Jerome

