

Pastor's Column

Rev. Michael Ratajczak
michaelr@stmoside.org
758-4100 x100

Prayer for the Upcoming National Elections

The election is only a few weeks away. I share with you a prayer taken from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) recent document, "*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: a Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States.*"

You are encouraged to pray this prayer in the days ahead:

*Immaculate Heart of Mary,
help us to conquer the menace of evil,
which so easily takes root in the hearts
of the people of today,
and whose immeasurable effects
already weigh down upon our modern world
and seem to block the paths toward the future.
From famine and war, deliver us.
From nuclear war, from incalculable self-destruction,
from every kind of war, deliver us.
From sins against human life
from its very beginning, deliver us.
From hatred and from the demeaning of the dignity
of the children of God, deliver us.
From every kind of injustice in the life of society, both
national and international, deliver us.
From readiness to trample on the
commandments of God, deliver us.
From attempts to stifle in human hearts
the very truth of God, deliver us.
From the loss of awareness of good and evil, deliver us.
From the sins against the Holy Spirit, deliver us.*

*Accept, O Mother of Christ,
this cry laden with the sufferings
of all individual human beings,
laden with the sufferings of whole societies.
Help us with the power of the Holy Spirit conquer all sin:
individual sin and the "sin of the world,"
sin in all its manifestations.
Let there be revealed once more in the history of the world
the infinite saving power of the redemption:
the power of merciful love.
May it put a stop to evil.
May it transform consciences.
May your Immaculate Heart reveal for all the light of hope.*

Amen.

F. Mike