



Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time October 26, 2014

Pastor's Column

*Rev. Michael Ratajczak
760-758-4100 x100
michaelr@stmoside.org*

Faithful Citizens in St. Thomas More Catholic Church!

As we approach the Mid-term Elections on Tuesday, November 4, I have, in my Pastor's Columns the last few weeks, reminded everyone that we are called to be faithful citizens.

Because of our Baptism, we are called to participate in promoting the common good by taking an active role in public life. One of the main ways in which we can participate is by voting in the various elections that come before us.

As the Catholic Church, we do not endorse any specific candidates, but we do, at times, endorse and support various propositions that are presented to us.

This year, the California Catholic Bishops are endorsing Proposition 47, "The Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act."

As faithful citizens, we are called to take time to become familiar with the candidates and their various positions and we are called to become knowledgeable about the variety of propositions that are included in the ballots as well.

Then, as always, we are, after prayerful discernment, encouraged to vote our conscience which is the most sacred gift that our God has entrusted to us.

Our participation in voting is public record. In recent years, the "San Diego Organizing Project" (SDOP) in conjunction with its mother organization "People Improving Communities through Organizing" (PICO National Network) have developed software that can compare the public record of voting with the Parish Data System (PDS) of any given parish.

With a letter of mutual understanding between St. Thomas More Parish and PICO National Network that this process would be completely confidential and that the only information that would become public would be the percentage of people in our Parish who are registered and the number of people who have voted in the last five elections, we then entered into the process.

Amazingly, and our Parish should take pride in this fact, we have a phenomenally high voter registration rate. Of 2,215 members only 403 are unregistered. This is an 82% registration rate!

The San Diego County registration rate is around 60%. Oceanside's registration rate is 48.5% and Vista's registration rate is around 40%.

Here is the breakdown of voter frequency. The list shows how many people in our Parish voted and in how many elections they voted in the last five elections:

5 – 517 people of the list of 1,812 registered voters voted every time in the last five elections

4 – 283 people...

3 – 228 people...

2 – 320 people...

1 – 296 people...

0 – 168 people... (These are a mixture of newly registered young people, who will vote for the first time this year, and those who have moved into the area recently.)

Unregistered – 403 people

These results indicate that the People of St. Thomas More Parish are faithful citizens and we take our Baptismal Call to engage in public life for the common good seriously!

See you at the polls next week!

F. Mike