

It Is Right and Just

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

By: Fr. Peter Cheng

April 30, 2022

The presidential and local election is just a few days away, but a lot of people are still undecided on who to vote for. Most of them are torn between family, friends, religion, or conscience. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has called on the electorate to vote only for candidates who are 'trustworthy' in the coming elections. However, with all the information related to politics posted on social media, it is difficult for the majority to know the difference between facts and lies. Hence, it is right and just to know the Godly criteria in choosing a 'trustworthy' candidate.

1. What are the criteria in choosing the right leaders?

1.1 They should bring us closer to God. Without Christ, we can do nothing (John 15). He is the only one who can transform our lives. God can do something for our leaders who fear God. Everything we do should be in thanksgiving and worship to God (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Not only is it right and just to give our praise and thanks to God, it is necessary.

1.2 They should look at their position as a ministry serving the Lord and His kingdom. They should be the instruments of God to bring order to the lives of the people. We should learn from the Bible. God allows things to happen when we choose the wrong leaders. God allows evil spirits to exist to reform our lives (1 Peter 2:13).

1.3 They should always decide for the common good rather than for personal interest. They should strive to always foster the good for all people.

2. What should we do to make all these possible?

2.1 We should pray. Pray the Holy Rosary to battle against evil (2 Chronicles 7:14). We need to prayerfully consider how to use our given power as voters to best defend, promote, and manifest more fully the Kingdom of God; a kingdom of true freedom, justice, peace, joy, and love for all.

2.2 We should be committed to participate. Our right to vote is a gift from God that we cannot take for granted. As good stewards of God's gift, it is important to participate in elections and exercise our right to vote. It is our civic and moral duty to improve and transform our world so that the world that we live in will be more like God's kingdom.

2.3 We should make sure to have an informed conscience and to know right from wrong. We need to carefully look at the candidates position on life issues, including looking at the platform of the party the candidates represent.

2.4 We should know the truth because the truth will set us free. We should know the facts and study the track record and accomplishments of the candidates.

2.5 We should uphold our being Christian/Catholic in our choices. We should vote according to a well-formed conscience that understands the proper relationship among moral goods. Politics is part of our life. Let God shine in our politics.

Conclusion:

We are instructed to participate in the political process, to be informed voters, and to encourage elected officials to act on behalf of the common good. **When choosing our political leaders, it is right and just that we remain faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ and be true witnesses of His Gospel.**

Reflection:

- Have you decided on who to vote for in this coming election? Do they pass the three criteria?

Transcriber/Writer: Sis Maro Anyog

Approved/Final Edited by: Sis Vera I. Tuplano

For more teachings, visit our website:

<https://lordsflock.org/teachings/digests>

#Trustworthy