

Column110120

Companions on the Journey

November 1, 2020

Dear Friends,

Tuesday is election day. In anticipation of the event (which I have often actually dreaded) I searched for what my thoughts were four years ago. I find them very similar to what I am experiencing personally right now. So I am reprising my Companions from 2016. Enjoy.

Companions on the Journey

November 6, 2016

Dear Friends,

I am going to vote in this election because I value the responsibility that my country has placed in my hands. The one person/one vote concept is a great equalizer to my way of thinking. No matter who anyone is, each person has been enfranchised and given the opportunity to cast a personal ballot in elections for public office. Now, in order to actualize this responsibility each person has to make him or herself known by registering as a citizen member of the United States and resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I see the gift of time in a very similar way. No matter who you are, how important or unimportant, how wealthy or how impoverished, how educated or uneducated, how free or how burdened, God gives each person, each day the same 24 hours of time. It is up to each of us to use that time wisely and well, to serve and help and show compassion. We can fritter that time away, or we can use it productively. The choice as to what we do with what we have been given—that is up to each of us.

I know that my vote is just one vote and that there will be 120 million or 130 million or more Americans who go to the polls on Tuesday. My vote is just one but it is precious to me. It is what I have. And so I ask myself as I prepare to vote: How can I make this one vote have the maximum impact on the outcome of this election? What do I believe would be the best possible outcome—given all the circumstances, given all the personalities, given all that is known or unknown about the various men and women who are running for office?

This is my 14th (in 2020) presidential election and I have voted in all of those presidential elections. Five times in the past the person I voted for was elected. Eight times that was not the case. So, for 20 of the last 52 years the person I voted for actually was elected. But for 32 of those years I lived under the governance of one whom I did not support. I am, to say the least, used to it. I am very used to having a president whose values and stances are not my own. But I am still going to vote my conscience and I am still going to vote for the person whom I believe more likely to make decisions that align more with my own values and outlook. That is the best that I can do.

In the past 52 years I have been lied to and scammed and taken advantage of and manipulated, and on more than one occasion, by those running for office. I sense it is happening again this year. But in each instance I have tried to identify those issues which are the most important in my view of the world and then analyze all that I have come to know about the candidates and then make a decision. I do not vote a straight party line because I am not a member of either of the political parties although I have been in the past. The moral tone of our country has been replaced with a very secular and very unbiblical worldview. I cannot vote for that. I do not think it is healthy or of God. I pray to the Lord Jesus who is Truth and sees truly and I open my heart to his grace. And I listen. Then I vote. But always, I pray—before, during, and after. As should we all. But remember the Lord will be with us and His grace will be available to us also before, during and after.

Peace,

Msgr. McHenry