

Companions on the Journey

October 9, 2022

Dear Friends in Christ,

You know how we say to each other when we hear about a difficulty or a sickness. “I will pray for you. I will bring your intention, your situation to Our Lord.” Well, I find that I am starting to bring more and more things to Our Lord. All kinds of things. Even things that you would not expect to be brought to prayer I am bringing to prayer. I like it. It works for me. In reality, it takes some of the pressure off of me to make a decision. Or, more correctly, to make the right decision. For, I do not always know what the right thing to do is. And yet, I, like you, often have to make a decision.

I was thinking about this because in a few weeks we will go to the polls again for the midterm elections. They include one Senate seat and various House of Representative seats on the federal level, and then a host of local seats for the Commonwealth, Senators and Representatives. And then there are the very local elections. We are still a basically two-party system in America. I have been both a registered Democrat and a registered Republican and now a registered Independent in my fifty plus years of voting. I have rarely been a straight party voter. I do try to learn a little something about those who are running for office, other than the lawn signs which encourage me to vote one way or another. And the ubiquitous television commercials which consistently paint any given political candidate in the most atrocious light or with the most biased spotlight. How can I tell what the truth is? I know that I can choose to believe what I choose to believe. But that does not make it true necessarily.

It is at this point that the Lord enters the picture. In my heart of hearts, I may have a particular outcome that I desire. But it also may be that I do not have a specific outcome but want to vote for the best person, the most responsible candidate. Lord, would you put on my heart the name of the person for whom I should vote in the upcoming elections? When I am standing in the polling booth and am poised over each name would you guide me to choose the person best suited to carry out the responsibilities of office? Lord, your Holy Spirit is the Spirit of enlightenment and guidance. IN this election cycle I can truly use enlightenment and guidance. I want to have a certain detachment rather than an enlightened self-interest.

Can I place this responsibility in your hands, Lod? In your mind, as you read this, you may be thinking: “How can I know what the Lord wants me to do in the polling booth? Here’s a novel thought. Why don’t you just ask Him? Is it really so outlandish? Does Our Lord not want the very best government and governance for his people? Is our thinking that God is so “hands off” that He will not give an indication as to what He desires of us? I find the Lord eminently trustworthy. What have you to lose? Is there a fear of trusting Him? Isn’t that the very thing that got our first parents into trouble—not trusting Him?

You may think I am being light-hearted and perhaps tongue-in-cheek with this column. I assure you, I am anything but. I am most serious. I myself am going to do this very thing. What have we got to lose? I mean, we have been picking all these years and our track record is not glorious. Why don’t we actually exercise our faith and ask the Lord to lead us into his truth—for our country? And then. Trust.

In the Peace of Christ,

Msgr. McHenry