

A Short Story - Voting
By Deacon Gerry Palermo

*In giving this instruction, I do not praise the fact
that your meetings are doing more harm than good. (1 COR 11:17).*

The division in the Church reflects proportionally to the renting of our social fabric.

Readings today: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/091624.cfm>

Recently, I received a text from a prominent local Catholic government official lamenting that a mutual friend has decided to quit the Catholic Church in favor of the ‘true’ Catholic Church (I’ll spare you the details but it’s another anti-Pope Francis issue). It is especially disturbing that he sent it to me. During the 2020 election cycle, he condemned me to Hell for my voting against Donald Trump. See blog post: <http://deacongerrypermo.blog/2020/12/10/catholic-failure-the-trump-stain/>

Why seek my advice on a Schismatic? By your reckoning, I am an apostate headed to Hell.

Alliance, advantage, and acquisition are the foundations of the secular world. Schism is born of frustration and lack of presumptive control. Control is the North Star. Rather, the Church is based on relation which is effectuated in acts of love and service. Seeking absolutism at-all-costs and now retreating to a version of relativism is a sign of an unsettled mind and spirit. The things traded-off to get a Roe-v-Wade reversal will be felt by the people for decades to come.

Do you show contempt for the Church of God and make those who have nothing feel ashamed? What can I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this matter I do not praise you (1 COR 11:22b).

Saint Paul

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord. A person should examine himself, and so eat the bread and drink the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself.

That is why many among you are ill and infirm, and a considerable number are dying.

Pope Francis

Asked what voters should do at the polls, Francis recalled the civic duty to vote. “One should vote, and choose the lesser evil,” he said. “Who is the lesser evil, the woman or man? I don’t know. “Everyone in their conscience should think and do it,” he said. (By NICOLE WINFIELD, AP, September 13, 2024). See <https://deacongerrypalermo.blog/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/forming-consciencences-for-faithful-citizenship.pdf>

The Eucharistic Revival can only be effective if we are open to having hearts like the Centurion.

Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof. Therefore, I did not consider myself worthy to come to you; but say the word and let my servant be healed.

Navigating life is difficult enough. Without humility we are destined to be colossal failures. Focusing on the moral errors of others is not a proxy for our own lack of virtue. Listen to Dr. Esha Lovrić (Sunday Synapse, Sunday 15th September, 2024)

We are so focused on telling everyone that what they think is wrong and that our own moral thinking is absolutely right, that we are not being conscious of all the errors of our own thinking.

I will pray for them. Pray for their freedom. Pray for the good exercise of free will. Pray for humility. Come back to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

Peace be with you.

Deacon Gerry

Disclaimer – Names, times and places are fictional or obscured to protect the privacy of others without distorting the essential truth of the encounter.

References: in-line