

Our Civic Duty

By coincidence, these readings appear during election time. They might not tell us how to vote, but they do throw some light on the notion of civic duty. Cyrus in the first reading was the Persian king whose foreign policy allowed conquered and displaced people to return to their homelands, even though they would still be under Persian control. In the Isaian passage, this foreign king is called the Lord's anointed and is blessed by God despite the fact that he is unaware of it. This suggests that even those who do not know or worship the God of Israel can be competent civic leaders as long as they work for the benefit of their citizenry.

The Gospel story is a bit more complex. Jewish law banned making a graven image of a person, as was found on Roman coins. This means that those trying to trap Jesus exposed their own violation of the law by possessing such a coin. Jesus did not condemn the Romans for casting such coins. Rather, he says that political leaders deserve our civic allegiance. How the Jews were to accomplish this without using forbidden Roman coins isn't explained. But then, how civic-minded people are to uphold complicated political and social values today is hard to explain as well. This is one of the challenges of belonging to a pluralist society. No political ticket perfectly mirrors all of the gospel values. Our civic duty is to decide which values we should advance.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- * How seriously do you take your civic duty?
- * How informed are you about the values of the candidates you support?



[Jesus said,]
 "Then repay
 to Caesar what
 belongs to Caesar
 and to God what
 belongs to God."
 MATTHEW 22:21

ELEMENTSDIGITAL/REXUS

Assumption of Our Lady



www.ourladyofassumptionhayriver.com

October 18, 2020

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 10:30 am

Weekday Masses

Mon. Tues. & Wed. 12:10 pm

Thurs. & Fri. 5:30 pm

Reconciliation time: Saturday from 4:15 to 4:45pm; Sunday, 9:45-10:15am or by appointment. Please contact Fr. Innocent for any other sacraments or funerals



Hay River, NT

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& St. Anne, Katloodeche

Sunday Mass 1:30 PM

Date	Readers	Collection	Gift Bearers	Eucharistic Ministers	Coffee & Snacks
Oct. 04	Please volunteer during mass.	Please volunteer during mass.	postponed	postponed	Postponed
Oct. 11	First Communion	Please volunteer during mass.	postponed	postponed	Postponed
Oct. 18	Please volunteer during mass.	Please volunteer during mass.	postponed	postponed	Postponed
Oct. 25	Please volunteer during mass.	Please volunteer during mass.	postponed	postponed	Postponed
Nov. 01	Please volunteer during mass.	Please volunteer during mass.	postponed	postponed	Postponed

We Can and Must Do Much Better



Ottawa – Today, more than 50 religious leaders from across Canada released an open letter to all Canadians in opposition to Bill C-7 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)*. This ecumenical and interfaith message is a response by religious leaders to the legislation introduced by the federal government on 5 October 2020 which seeks to expand the eligibility criteria for euthanasia and assisted suicide (euphemistically called “medical assistance in dying”) by removing the “reasonable foreseeability of natural death” criterion currently in the Criminal Code, and by loosening some of the existing “safeguards” allowing patients whose death is “reasonably foreseeable” to waive final consent to receiving euthanasia by making an advance directive.

The religious leaders said in part: “We are obliged to express our strong concern and opposition to Bill C:7 which, among other things, expands access to euthanasia and assisted suicide to those who are not dying. It perplexes our collective minds that we have come so far as a society yet, at the same time, have so seriously regressed in the manner that we treat the weak, the ill, and the marginalized.”

The message reflects a unity of thought and concern among Canada’s diverse religious communities in the face of human suffering, dying and death, and the inadequacy of euthanasia and assisted suicide as a response. The religious leaders further expressed: “We are convinced that a robust palliative care system available to all Canadians is a much more effective response to suffering and to protecting the sacred dignity of the human person. Palliative care addresses pain in a loving and caring environment, wherein people go out of their way to offer comfort and solace. It makes everyone into a better person.”

The development of the message was initiated by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB), Rabbi Dr. Reuven P. Bulka, CM, Ph.D., the Canadian Council of Imams (CCI), the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada (EFC) and Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama’at Canada.

Media is encouraged to direct inquiries to any of the endorsing signatories to the message.

[We Can and Must do Much Better – Religious Leaders in Canada denounce Bill C-7, “An Act to amend the Criminal Code \(medical assistance in dying\)”](#)

Rachel’s Corner

“My past O Lord, to Your mercy; my present to Your love; my future to Your providence.” St. Padre Pio

Has it been hard to even imagine a future when all you can think about is the pain, shame and regret from a past abortion decision? You are not alone. Give that past to our merciful Lord, on a Rachel’s Vineyard™ Retreat, and allow Him to love you as your wounds begin to heal.

867-872-0026 rachelsvineyard.nwt@gmail.com

: Weekly Revenue	
\$865.50	Collection
\$1,315.00	Canada Helps Website
\$2,180.50	Revenue Total
\$1,831.00	Expenses Total
\$349.50	
Expenses are based on 2018 Q1	

Dear Padre,

As a recovering heroin addict, do I need to go to reconciliation to confess my addiction? Addiction is a disease, not a sin. Right?

Right, but addiction and actually using drugs are two different things. As you know, recovering addicts who don’t use drugs are still addicts, and that in itself isn’t a sin. But it’s against the law to use heroin in the United States, so even if you never committed a secondary crime to get it, getting it was a crime.



More important, though, the body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, and it’s a sin to abuse ourselves in any way. Even if it weren’t against the law, your use of heroin is certainly an abuse of your body.

The sacrament of reconciliation is more than just receiving absolution for sins. It also helps us look

more deeply at our lives. Before you go, examine your conscience: Ask yourself how your addiction has affected your body, your life, your relationship with God, and the welfare of others. If you bring honest answers to those questions as well as an open heart and an open mind, your conversation with your priest at reconciliation will help you heal your relationship with God and others. You will also receive the grace to improve your life and do things like overcome addiction so you can be a better person.

—Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

Every drug addict has a unique personal story and must be listened to, understood, loved, and, insofar as possible, healed and purified. We cannot stoop to the injustice of categorizing drug addicts as if they were mere objects or broken machines; each person must be valued and appreciated in his or her dignity.

—ADDRESS TO PONTIFICAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, NOVEMBER 24, 2016

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Calendar

Monday
OCTOBER 19
Sts. John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs

Eph 2:1–10
Lk 12:13–21

Tuesday
OCTOBER 20
Weekday
Eph 2:12–22
Lk 12:35–38

Wednesday
OCTOBER 21
Weekday
Eph 3:2–12
Lk 12:39–48

Thursday
OCTOBER 22
Weekday
Eph 3:14–21
Lk 12:49–53

Friday
OCTOBER 23
Weekday
Eph 4:1–6
Lk 12:54–59

Saturday
OCTOBER 24
Weekday
Eph 4:7–16
Lk 13:1–9

Sunday
OCTOBER 25
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ex 22:20–26
1 Thes 1:5c–10
Mt 22:34–40

