

**Peace to your hearts and to your families!**

**We have been hearing for the past several months, BLACK LIVES MATTER and more recently BLUE LIVES MATTER and WHITE LIVES MATTER but I live by a different motto: LIVES MATTER INSIDE THE WOMB AND OUTSIDE THE WOMB. Yes, I am a Priest, Yes I am a Franciscan, Yes I am a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus and Yes I am Pro-life.**

**This 2016 Presidential election is going to be one of the most difficult, controversial, name-calling and back-biting event of 2016. What are the facts that we should keep before our eyes and uplifted in prayer to our God? Can I tell you how to vote? NO. Can I offer some serious advice and counsel to help you to vote? YES. Let me first refer to a notice from the Supreme Knight, Carl Anderson who says: “Catholics cannot vote for Pro-abortion candidate”. In a speech at the Knights’ international convention in Toronto, he said, “abortion isn’t just another political issue, what political issue could possibly outweigh this human devastation? Abortion is different. Abortion is the killing of the innocent on a massive scale. We need to end the political manipulation of Catholic voters by abortion advocates. It is time to end the entanglement of Catholic people with abortion killing. It is time to stop creating excuses for voting for pro-abortion politicians. We will never succeed in building a culture of life if we continue to vote for politicians who support a culture of death.” Strong words from a strong leader.**

**Archbishop Chaput of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia recently also addressed concerns about the upcoming election. He said: “Both major candidates are-what’s the right word? So problematic – that neither is clearly better than the other. That’s why it’s crucial in this election year for Catholic voters to take time in silence, prayer and formative reading in order to discern what the best course of action will be when they enter the voting booth in November.” He continues: “Note that by ‘Catholic,’ I mean people who take their Faith seriously; people who actually believe what the Catholic Faith holds to be true; people who place it first in their loyalty, thoughts and actions; people who submit their lives to Jesus**

**Christ, to Scripture and to the guidance of the community of belief we know as the Church.” He continues: “Prayer is a conversation, an engagement of the soul with God. It involves listening for God’s voice and educating our consciences. Silence is necessary for prayer, and so prayer must mean that Catholics take time to ‘unplug’ in order to make room for silence – from T.V., from social media – and in order to make time for true prayer.” All of this assists in the forming of a true, well-formed conscience which is crucial for making a well-formed decision. Archbishop Chaput continues: “the next few months will determine the next decade and more of our nation’s life. We need to be awake, we need to clear our heads of media noise and we need to think quietly and carefully before we vote. None of us can afford to live the coming weeks on autopilot.”**

**On a very personal note: I cannot trust a politician, person who cold-heartedly and viciously promotes the death of a child in the womb. I believe what Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta (soon to be canonized) said many years ago: America will never be great again until she stops killing babies in the womb. I believe that Pro-life is a major issue not to be overclouded by other issues which may or may not be major. See how far America has deviated morally since Roe vs Wade of 1973: no longer prayer in public schools or public places, assisted suicide, same-sex marriage, trans-gender issues, legalization of marijuana, political correctness, and other liberal positions that corrupt our society. What other immoral issues can America advocate and not bring down God’s wrath? I believe that a politician or a political party that advocates these immoral actions is not the politician or party for me as a Catholic. What about you?**

**Vivat Jesus!**

**Fr. Anthony Francis Spilka, OFMConv.**