

“When vintage time drew near,
he sent his servants to the tenants
to obtain his produce...”

Mt 21:34

PRIEST'S INTENTIONS FOR MASSES

Sun, Oct 4 TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

5:30 pm † Anthony Tornay
 8:00 am *Sp Int* Anna Marie Snyder
 11:00 am † Jack Cloward
 5:30 pm For the People of the Parish

Mon, Oct 5 Weekday

8:00 am † Rylan O'Neal

Tues, Oct 6 Weekday

8:00 am Mass for Collective Intentions
 1:00 pm † Cora Johnson (Funeral Mass)

Wed, Oct 7 Our Lady of the Rosary

8:00 am *Sp Int* The Brown Family

Thurs, Oct 8 Weekday

8:00 am *Sp Int* Joe & *Sp Int* Marie Pospichal

Fri, Oct 9 Weekday

No Mass

Sat, Oct 10 Weekday

8:00 am † Anthony Peklár & † Ron Peklár

Sun, Oct 11 TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

5:30 pm † Maria J. Skrinjar
 8:00 am † Antonio Cadiz
 11:00 am † Corazon Paner Canedo
 5:30 pm For the People of the Parish



We love having you as part of our flock! Get updates about Masses and parish life via email or text! Sign up! Visit olg-church.org and look for the blue and white sheep.

Public Mass Update

Masses are celebrated outside in front of the church. Bring a blanket or lawn chair to sit on. Face coverings are required, as is physical distancing. Bottled water, hats, hand sanitizer, and sunscreen are recommended. In extreme heat Masses will be moved inside. Our Ambassadors will be present to assist you. For more info, visit olg-church.org and read the red NOTICE under the Weekly Liturgy Schedule headline.

The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays continues to be dispensed by Bishop McElroy.

Masses are being Streamed Online

On the parish website we have listed multiple links to options to participate in Sunday and daily Mass online in the Diocese of San Diego and beyond. Visit olg-church.org homepage and click on the gold "Online Mass Info and Other Sustaining Faith Resources in the Time of Pandemic" button. Scroll to listed Mass links.



**OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH
Practice the Stewardship of Life!**

"Let's say 'Yes' to life and 'No' to death."

~ Pope Francis, 2014 March for Life in France

Welcome to OUR LADY of GRACE!

Welcome to all who are joining us for the celebration of the Eucharist. There are many ways and parish organizations to participate in our life in Christ. See the directory on page 7.

We invite all who attend OLG to become registered members of our parish. Registration forms are available on the table in the main entry of the church or the parish office. Registration allows us to communicate and effectively provide for your needs. It is necessary for baptism, marriage, and godparent or sponsor certification.

Mindfulness of Others—Please silence all devices and refrain from using them during the liturgy. The parish has a Children's Chapel located in the northwest corner of the church. Parents with restless children are welcome to make use of this chapel at any time during Mass should it be necessary. We ask that this chapel, like the church itself, remain free of food and drink.

Allergies—The first morning Mass of the Sunday or holy day will always be incense-free. The Sunday 11:00 am Mass will often include the use of incense.

Invitation to the R.C.I.A.

Our Lady of Grace Parish welcomes all who seek to enrich their faith life and explore the possibility of becoming a Catholic Christian. Our community shares and celebrates this journey with them through a process called "The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults." If you are curious about what Catholics believe and may be interested in learning more about joining the Catholic faith—or perhaps you are an adult Catholic looking to be fully initiated—you are cordially invited to enter the R.C.I.A. process and experience a new and enriched meaning to your life through renewed faith and love. Please contact Deacon John Sawaya at (858) 869-5079 or use the "Contact us" link on the parish webpage.

**READINGS FOR OCT 4 - 11**

Sun: Is 5:1-7; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43

Mon: Gal 1:6-12; Lk 10:25-37

Tue: Gal 1:13-24; Lk 10:38-42

Wed: Gal 2:1-2, 7-14; Lk 11:1-4

Thu: Gal 3:1-5; Lk 11:5-13

Fri: Gal 3:7-14; Lk 11:15-26

Sat: Gal 3:22-29; Lk 11:27-28

Sun: Is 25:6-10a; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20; Mt 22:1-14

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Readings:

Is 5:1-7

Phil 4:6-9

Mt 21:33-43

GROW: Have you ever had that feeling that all is right with the world? Perhaps it's the cool breeze on a crisp fall day, holding a newborn baby for the first time, or watching your friends or family enjoying each other's company around the dinner table. These are grace-filled moments that bring to mind St. Paul's words today which speak of "the peace of God that surpasses all understanding." It can be all too easy to lose sight of them amid the stresses of daily life and a news feed dominated by negativity and catastrophic events. Paul, never one to shy away from taking a stand, is not asking us to bury our heads in the sand, however. His Letter to the Philippians encourages us to "have no anxiety at all," and turn our thoughts to "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is

just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious." In doing so,



we can not only counter the negativity, but persevere in faith as we confront the challenges of 2020.

GO: Paul goes on to say, in that same reading: "Keep

on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you." I think Paul just offered us the secret to a happy life! Allow this passage to speak to you today. Allow God's peace to permeate your heart and calm the unrest that can so easily creep in these days. And then pray that you can be the true, honorable, and gracious presence in another's life. Send this passage to a friend who may be hurting in some way, and invite him/her to think of a time recently when they felt the presence of God, the peace of God, in their life. And then offer to accompany them in their struggles – walk beside them and encourage them to "think about these things" that are excellent or worthy of praise.

PRAY: Focus on the encouragement of St. Paul's words today and pray Psalms 100, 136, and 148. Pray these sacred hymns of praise and thanksgiving, and then suggest that you pray them together with your friend.

Written by The Faithful Disciple

Anchored Virtual Bible Conference

Are you seeking to grow in your love and knowledge of God's Word? Join 7,000+ Catholics already registered for this free, one-day virtual event hosted by the Augustine Institute Sat, **Oct 10**, at 9:00 am PDT from the comfort of your own home

Featured Topics and Speakers:

Unshakable Hope by Dr. Tim Gray

Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary by Dr. Brant Pitre

Discovering Salvation in the Beatitudes by Dr. Michael Patrick Barber

Finding Consolation in the Book of Revelation by Dr. Nina Heereman

The Quest for Wisdom by Dr. Mark Giszczak

For an overview, schedule and to register visit bibleconference.augustineinstitute.org

The Augustine Institute also provides FORMED.org - see page 5!



OUR LADY OF GRACE CHURCH

Founded 1954

CLERGY

PASTOR

Very Rev. Peter McGuine

AUXILIARY PRIEST

Rev. Maxime Villeneuve, OSA

PRIESTS IN RESIDENCE

*Rev. Curtiss Dwyer,
LT, CHC, USN*

*Rev. Jerome Molokie,
O Praem.*

DEACON

Dcn. John Sawaya

SCHEDULE of MASSES

SUNDAY VIGIL

(Saturday) 5:30 pm

SUNDAY

8:00 am, 11:00 am, 5:30 pm

MONDAY-THURSDAY AND SATURDAY

8:00 am

Holy days and holidays listed separately in bulletin.

SACRAMENTS

INFANT BAPTISM

Baptisms are celebrated on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 12:30 pm. Preparation packet is available in the parish office.

RITE of CHRISTIAN INITIATION of ADULTS

Contact Deacon Sawaya (858) 869-5079.

HOLY MATRIMONY

Marriage preparation begins nine months in advance.

Please contact Fr. Peter McGuine or Deacon Sawaya.

PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION

Monday 6:00 pm
Thursday 8:30 am
Saturday 4:00 pm

ANOINTING of THE SICK

Call the parish office (619) 469-0133.



Help protect mothers and children by joining 1,000,000+ volunteers through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and outreach Sep 23 - Nov 1 .

Please pray and fast to support this initiative as your schedule allows, but for those who are able, our parish is committed to cover prayer shifts from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm on **Oct 4, 11, 18, 25; and Nov 1**. Please sign-up for at least one hour of peaceful prayer to end abortion on one of these dates. Volunteers pray in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood at 1685 E Main St, El Cajon. Please contact Vicki at (619) 647-5793 to schedule your prayer time. You can also contact email at elcajon40days@hotmail.com and learn more by visiting 40daysforlife.com/elcajon.

Parent Meeting about Sacrament Preparation

Parents of children preparing for first sacraments will meet in the church on Wed, **Oct 14**, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. This is an adult only meeting; childcare is not provided. Bring your Bible and prior to the meeting be sure to watch the first four sessions of *Forgiven* found on Formed.org. If you do not already have a free subscription visit olg-church.org, click on the "Learn" tab and select "FORMED.org - a free gift for you" then follow the directions shown on the landing page. For more info about sacrament preparation visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/olgfaithformation/olgsr/sacramental-preparation>.



Save the Date for the Annual Craft Fair

OLG's Catholic Women's Club is holding their Annual Craft Fair on Sat, **Nov 7**, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in the upper parking lot. Due to COVID-19 the Craft Fair will be held one day only. Distancing, face masks, guest number limits and one way foot traffic will be observed. For more info visit the Contact Us page at olg-church.org and select "CWC—Annual Craft Fair" or call the Parish Office for a contact phone number.



Revealing God's Love in the Midst of Uncertainty

Tuesday mornings at 10:30 am, **Oct 6 - Nov 10** the Society of the Sacred Heart offers prayer and reflection based on an article or video clip that focuses on radical disparities through the lens of Christian Faith. Together participants seek to become agents of transformation and people of hope in our nation.

To receive a Zoom invitation or learn more call (619) 224-9444 or visit spiritmin.org/programs/revealing-Gods-love

Weekly Topics:

Oct 6 - Introduction
 Oct 13 - The Black Community
 Oct 20 - The Latino Community
 Oct 27 - The Asian Community
 Nov 3 - The Native American Community
 Nov 10 - Conclusion
 Suggested offering is \$60.00.



Peter's Pence Collection

This worldwide collection supports the structures of the Holy See and provides charitable outreach to help those most in need!

To donate go to the olg-church.org homepage and click the Peter's Pence link.

Thank you!

October is Rosary Month

Join others to pray after daily Mass in the Mary Grotto!



Where the Rosary is recited there will be days of peace and tranquility.

~St. John Bosco

Calling All Angels!

Our Lady of Grace parishioners have been generously serving East County families and seniors in need of life's basics at Thanksgiving and Christmas for over 31 years through the *OLG Holiday Angel Program*. In this time of pandemic, we are all familiar with the increased need, so the program will continue this year, except in a revised format for the safety of its volunteers and program participants.

The Angel Program will be accepting monetary donations only for Thanksgiving and Christmas. These funds will be used to purchase gift cards through OLG School's gift card program for the families and seniors in crisis. Simply determine the size of the family you would like to help and then calculate how much per person you would like to spend on the holiday meals, staples and Christmas gifts.

Suggested donations are \$25/person for a holiday meal, \$15/person for pantry staples, \$75/child for Christmas gifts/clothes/school supplies. Of course, any donation amount is helpful; we will serve as many people as we can with the donations we receive. Please use the "Online Giving" link at olg-church.org or place an envelope with your check in the donation basket – be sure to designate your gift as "Holiday Angel Program." Thank you OLG faith family for your enduring generosity! If you have questions, please contact Angel Coordinator Lesley Bradley at (619) 878-0278.



YOUTH MINISTRY AND FORMATION

High School Teens Fall Retreat

Coming Oct 23-25, the annual New Life High School Fall Retreat at Pine Valley Bible Camp. Registration and permission forms are available at olg-church.org. Click on the "Serve" drop down menu, select "Parish Groups" and under "Youth Groups" choose New Life.



Get Jr. High and/or High School event details. Visit olg-church.org click "Serve" then "Parish Groups" and under "Youth Groups" choose ESCAPE (Jr. High) or New Life (High School).

EAST COUNTY YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

To learn the status of events for San Diego East County Young Adults follow Instagram @sd.ecya or visit sdcatholic.org/office-for/young-adult-ministry to see a complete list of spiritual development and social opportunities for 18-39 year old Catholic Young Adults.

OLG Position Available

Maintenance Worker/Custodian needed Tue-Fri, 6:30 am to 3:00 pm. For more info visit olg-church.org, click on the About tab and Employment Opportunities link.

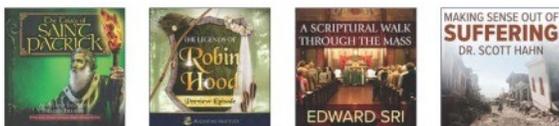
WE ARE GIVING YOU FORMED

LEARN AND ENJOY YOUR FAITH AT HOME OR ON THE GO FROM ANY DEVICE. CREATE YOUR FREE ACCOUNT BY VISITING olg-church.org, CLICK "LEARN" AND THEN "FORMED"

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Listen on Your Commute



Is Your Family Ready for an Emergency?
Five Easy + Free Steps to Get Ready



- **Get alerts** to know what to do.
- **Make a plan** to protect your people.
- **Pack** a Go Bag with things you need.
- **Build** a Stay Box for when you can't leave.
- **Help** friends and neighbors get ready.

For more info go to listoscalifornia.org

A Little Humor

Pastor: Now, Simon, tell me, do you say a prayer before eating?

Simon: No Father, I don't have to, my mom is a good cook!



FUNERAL LITURGY AT OUR LADY of GRACE

CORA JOHNSON

Tue, **Oct 6** at 1:00 pm

Inurnment follows at Greenwood Memorial Park

May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

CHRIS JONES

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for those who have requested prayer and for the special intentions written in the Book of Intentions in the Baptistry of our church.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Patricia Adams | Tim Clasemen |
| Griselda Albanez | Rick Ferrantello |
| Heriberto Albanez | Mark Habina |
| Tilly Allison | Brenda Hilgeman |
| Gabriela Alvarenga | Susan Hori |
| Marvin Alvarenga | Lubos Jurik |
| Mari Kay Ames | Rebecca Leyden |
| Angie Arrayan | Tim Leyden |
| Patrick Attardo | Natalie Mascari |
| Francine Balestreri | Ann Renzi |
| Angie Biner | Anthony Renzi |
| Angela Bolin | Ralph Reveles |
| Anita Branch | Joseph Shecora |
| Pat Burke | Clayton Schenkelberg |
| Stephanie Butcher | Hibe Thornton |
| Janice Butterfield | Andy Tong |
| Pam Carlson | Eve Ulshoeffter |
| Brian Cashman | Marilyn Winger |

Names remain listed for four weeks and can be renewed by contacting Marie Pospichal at mpospichal@olg-church.org.

Gratitude in Action



2020 Annual Catholic Appeal supports Catholic Schools, Clergy & Seminarian Support, Faith Formation and Catholic Charities.

Visit olg-church.org to give or pledge!

Asking God Amid a Pandemic

I have a friend who posts COVID-19 graphs nearly every day since mid-march. His graphs show local, state, and national statistics. He tracked rates of infection, death rates, and hospitalization rates.

By the end of March, I used the “mute” option on Facebook. After 30 days, his postings showed up again. Once again, his postings were primarily data graphs regarding COVID-19 so I muted him again.

All the news, social media, and “the noise” took, my focus away from what was in my control. Data that was too big for me to have a significant impact made me focus on things outside of my circle of influence. I find when I turn off the noise and turn towards God, I properly give Him challenges that are too great for me alone to handle.

God has a plan for each of us. When we stay in our lane and not focus on what we want but do what God is leading us to, we end up

accomplishing more than we ever dreamed we could do.

As a former K-8 Catholic school principal, I would talk to our 8th graders about their futures. I would ask them, “how many of you have been asked, ‘What do you want to do when you grow up?’” All the students raise their hands. I then ask, “How many of you have been asked, ‘what do you think God wants you to be?’” An uncomfortable silence comes over the classroom as none of the students raise their hands.

I continue, “How many of you ask God, ‘What do You want me to be?’” Only a couple of hands go up. In our continued conversation, many will share that they are afraid to ask God what He wants them to be because it may not be what they want to do. When asked if the student believed they would be happier doing what they were designed to do or doing what they

wanted to do, the students reluctantly admit that doing what God wants for us is the way to true happiness. The hard part is asking and genuinely listening for His voice, not to put our own voice over His.

I have since moved back into the public school system. As administrators and our school board struggle to figure out what is best for our students and families amid a pandemic, many other administrators and I are still mindful that even in the public school, we are still called to do God’s work. To honestly do what is best for our students, we need to ask God for Direction and not rely solely on what we believe is best or what we want.

We are all designed by God, and all of us have a role here on Earth. As we all navigate this pandemic, let us tune out the noise that distracts us. Let’s instead, take some time in the silence and ask God, “What do you want me to do?”

By Jack Corey. Reprinted from *Current Events*.



PRAY: The Story of Patrick Peyton

In theatres the weekend of Oct 9, this movie is the true story of the man behind the famous phrase, “The Family That Prays Together Stays Together.”

Born into a poor family in Ireland, Patrick Peyton came to America to seek riches but instead rediscovered his priestly vocation. After Our Lady miraculously saved his life, Father Peyton went on a mission to promote the Rosary and family prayer, working with some of Hollywood’s biggest stars and traveling the globe. You will be amazed and inspired! Ticket and theater info can be found at PrayTheFilm.com. Also, you can join the exciting new prayer movement at: PrayTogetherNow.com.

WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT

September 22 - 28, 2020

\$11,561.32

Plate	\$	693.32
Envelopes	\$	6,513.00
Online Giving	\$	4,355.00

Breakdown of Gifts Received

\$0.01 - \$5.00	20
\$5.01 - \$10.00	30
\$10.01 - \$25.00	63
\$25.01 - \$50.00	55
\$50.01 - \$100.00	29
\$100.01 - \$150.00	10
\$150.01 - \$500.00	13

Total Contributing Households

220

Additional Gifts

Building Fund	\$1,566.00
School Support - Tuition Assistance	\$670.00
Food Pantry	\$362.00

Secure Parish Online Giving

Give a one-time gift or set up recurring gifts

Visit olg-church.org and click on the “Online Giving” link in the upper right corner of the webpage (or use the QR code with your smart phone app!).



The Amazon Smile Foundation recently surpassed \$200 million in donations to charities worldwide. It’s easy to increase your support to OLG when making your everyday purchases!

Shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/27-3860489 or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon shopping app and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to Our Lady of Grace parish! Thank you for your support!

OUR LADY of GRACE PARISH AND SCHOOL DIRECTORY

2766 NAVAJO ROAD, EL CAJON, CA 92020



PHONE: (619) 469-0133
 FAX: (619) 469-0575
 WEB: OLG-CHURCH.ORG
 HOURS: WEEKDAYS 8:30 AM-4:30 PM

Pastor **FR. PETER MCGUINE** | Ext. 17
 Deacon **DCN. JOHN SAWAYA**
 Business Manager **PATRICIA KANE** | Ext. 12
 Special Projects Coordinator **KEN DISCENZA** | Ext. 24
 Bookkeeper **SIONI BAUTISTA** | Ext. 16
 Office Manager **MARIE POSPICHAL** | Ext. 10
 Publicity & Communications **GEORGENE KRUZEL** | Ext. 33
 Housekeeping **MARIA ARIAS**
 Maintenance & Facilities **DAN BRESLIN & MATTHEW HILGEMAN**

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Liturgy Coordinator **ROSA HILGEMAN** | Ext. 14
 Director of Liturgical Music **PAUL MAY** | Ext. 26
Cantate Kids and Gaudete Choir (11:00 am Sun)
 Director **ROBERT FILLEY**
Laudate Ensemble (5:30 pm Sun)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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& ADULT FAITH FORMATION

PHONE: (619) 466-5656

Director of Catechetical Ministry | **LISSA HUTCHESON**
 Youth Ministry Coord. *Jr. High, Sr. High* | **DORIS HERTZIG**
 (619) 466-5451



For answers to almost every question about Our Lady of Grace liturgies, ministries and parish activities please visit our website at: olg-church.org
 And Like Us on Facebook!



Reporting Sexual Abuse

Complaints about sexual abuse by a member of the clergy or by a parish or Catholic school employee or volunteer can be made by calling Mary Acosta at (858) 490-8353 or writing misconduct@sdccatholic.org.



PHONE: (619) 466-0055
 FAX: (619) 466-8994
 WEB: OLG.ORG
 HOURS: WEEKDAYS 7:15 AM-3:30 PM
 (DURING SCHOOL YEAR)

Principal **ERIN MARES** | Ext. 11
 emares@olg.org
 Vice-Principal **RACHEL SATO** | Ext. 27
 rsato@olg.org
 Development & Admissions **KELLI BALISTRERI** | Ext. 16
 kbalistreri@olg.org
 Secretary **LINDA PETERS** | Ext. 10
 lpeters@olg.org

PARISH MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

To email members of the parish staff or the ministry leaders listed below please visit our website at:

olg-church.org - click on the "Contact Us" link in the upper right corner of the browser window.

For a ministry leader phone number please call the Parish Office at (619) 469-0133.

55 PLUS CLUB—Mary Cloward
BLOOD DRIVE—Debbie Ipsen
CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB—CWC
 CWC—Mary Cloward
 Book Club—Julie Hazelton
 Craft Fair—Kathy Porterfield
CENTERING PRAYER—Irma Eichinger or Beatrice Doblado
CUB SCOUTS—*Pack 951*—Crystal Carr
CURSILLO—Dcn. John Sawaya
EVENTS COMMITTEE—Nettie Aguinaldo
FOOD PANTRY—*Since 1981* (619) 469-0061
 Bob Cosgrove M-F, 9:30-11:00 am
HOLIDAY ANGELS—*Since 1988*—Lesley Bradley
INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC FAMILIES—ICF
 Carla Pedroncelli
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS—*Frances Cabrini Council 8879*
 Lou Crow, Grand Knight
LADIES OF GRACE—Rosemarie McLain
LEGION OF MARY—*Since 1987*—Dee Draper
MEN FOR CHRIST—Steve Faucher
MINISTRY TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND
 Rosa Hilgeman
PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY—*Since 2006*
 Nettie Aguinaldo
PRO-LIFE
 Mary Dixon
 Vicki Whitmire (40 Days for Life)
WALKING WITH PURPOSE—*Women's Bible Study*
 Danica Hertzig



God's Work in
Our Hands

If any of your personal information has changed please be so kind as to update us in the Parish Office. It is important that we update our family records.

Religious freedom is on your ballot

Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila
Archdiocese of Denver

September 25, 2020

A troubling trend is appearing as our country grapples with social unrest and the impact of the coronavirus, but it's not a new trend. Catholics and other people of faith are singled out for derision and sometimes physical violence. For the sake of our Church and our society, we must respond by defending the right to religious freedom, both when we vote and through our own personal witness.

The attacks on Catholics have shifted from the 19th century discrimination and claims that we can't be loyal citizens, to the recent assertions that Catholics are judgmental and hateful towards women and sexual minorities.

Just as the arguments of the Know Nothing Party in the 1850s and the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s demonstrated a failure to understand what Catholics believe, so too do the modern attacks fail to understand and appreciate what we believe about the human person.

However, the goal of these attacks is the same: to shame and sideline Catholics within society and to increase the influence of those

who do not accept God's design for human nature.

In recent years, the lashing out against the Church in the U.S. has increased in its intensity, turning from criticizing her in the media and online to labeling Catholics as discriminatory in various ministries like adoption services or health care. Within the last several months this has even turned into physical violence against our symbols, church buildings and

“The American Founders recognized that our self-government relies on a virtuous people.”

people, as frequently occurs in places like France, parts of Africa and elsewhere in the world.

The American Founders recognized that our self-government relies on a virtuous people. The increase in intolerance and violence we see today underscores this. John Adams addressed the

need for virtue directly in a 1798 letter to Massachusetts militia officers, writing, “Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” As our country moved closer toward Civil War, Abraham Lincoln emphasized that a self-governing society thrives or dissolves based on its people: “If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide” (Address Before the Young Men's Lyceum of Springfield, IL, 1838).

We are quickly approaching the national election on November 3, when our country will be asked to determine who is best suited to represent us in our legislature and as president. Among the premier concerns for Catholics when they vote are: Who will protect human life at every stage? Who will protect natural marriage and the family? And finally, who will defend religious freedom, protect consciences and the right of people to live out their faith in every sphere of society?

(Over)

A society that has no common belief in God, and therefore in each person's identity as his beloved son or daughter, will become less human and less tolerant. When there is no God, something or someone becomes god to fill the void, leading to tragedy, and eventual societal collapse. Now is the time for us to stand up for the place of full-throated Catholic belief in public life and the valuable contributions of people of faith to society.

Essential for every Catholic to fulfill his or her duty as a citizen is knowing where candidates stand on the issues of life, family and religious freedom. It is not possible to be a Catholic in good standing and support abortion or assisted suicide, to promote unnatural sexuality, or to seek to push people of faith out of the public square. Those who do so – Catholic or not – are helping hollow out our culture and contributing to its demise. The further away we get from a virtuous and moral life the more likely will we look like Greece or Rome when they fell, or like Venezuela today. Every Catholic needs to inform themselves on where each candidate stands on these issues by reading news outlets that cover these topics, such as Catholic News Agency or the National Catholic Register.

In the early 1900s it worked for Catholics to develop our

own school system, establish hospitals and run our businesses according to our faith. We served and continue to serve the poor and homeless with the charity of Christ, especially seen in the work of Catholic Charities. This was how we protected and grew our faith over the last 100 years, but the "cancel culture" that seeks to silence the sincerely held beliefs of individuals will also not tolerate the presence of these faith-driven entities if we allow it to gain enough momentum. We cannot adopt the mentality of, "it's fine for others to act that way, but we won't." The morals of society will impact us, and we cannot turn a blind eye to evil.

If we want our country to flourish, then out of charity for our fellow citizens and future generations, Catholics need to strongly advocate for the necessity of religious freedom and vote accordingly.

May God bless each of you and may God bless America!



The Most Reverend Samuel J. Aquila was named the Archbishop of Denver on May 29, 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI.

FD-1083

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