

Politics in the Ivory Tower

I never was fond of subjects like business and politics. Two of my aunts received a Masters in business, my mother was a CPA, and a dear friend majored in political science. I could not help but marvel at their, what I thought was, unrewarded patience and odd interest. However, for my senior year in college I decided to take a step outside my theological comfort zone and take some of these more “mundane” subjects, and I did so with the end in view to gain practical knowledge. Theology, although my college major and passion, would not adequately prepare me for the “real” world (or so I thought.) When I walked into my first business class, I felt like I was coming down from my ivory tower and stepping into reality. On the first day of class when we introduced ourselves and stated our major, I sheepishly said my major was theology. Despite my attitude that Catholic theology majors were best suited for Catholic theology classes, I soon discovered that the contrary was true.

My professors seemed to be quite intrigued with my background. They asked a lot of questions and sometimes even referenced my theology major in their lectures. When it came time for research papers, I was inspired to incorporate Catholic ideas, such as the dignity of the family and the dignity of the human worker, into both of my economics papers. My economics professor was delighted by the theories and ideas found in my papers and recommended that the papers be published. For the first time I began to understand just how practical my education in theology really was. In fact, our Catholic faith guides, animates, and gives meaning to all other subjects and aspects of life!

We Catholics are called to infuse our faith into everything that we do, and into every decision we make. There is nothing that is unrelated to our Catholic faith. It is only a recent invention of man to separate the political and business realms from God. But what happens after this separation takes place? Is man’s well-being better served, human freedom better understood, and human dignity better protected? When God is rejected, then that which is made in His image and likeness is also rejected. Thus, it is paramount that for this presidential election, we must turn to our Catholic faith. But we must not look only to our own personal Catholic faith which has shortcomings and weaknesses. We must look to the Catholic faith which exists perfect and unblemished in the form of Church teachings and doctrine. We also must look to God in the Eucharist. We can speak to Him directly there, and ask for His wisdom and guidance. Our providential and personal God does care about this election and its outcome. We must honor Him with our votes, and it is in our best interest to do so. God is the source of all goodness, and by seeking and doing His will for this election, He will pour down many graces and blessings upon our hurting country.

Please take the opportunity to visit our Lord in Eucharistic adoration before the election. If enough Catholics do so, it not only will begin the much needed reunification of God and politics, but it will ensure that God’s vote in this election will be the one that counts.