

Give unto Caesar What Is Caesars and To God What is God

A couple of month ago I was visiting a hospice patient in his home and his caregiver was a very devout Vietnamese woman. She had a Divine Mercy pin on her which led us into a discussion of the Chaplet and such and she asked if we could say the Chaplet together. So, I went to my car to get my Rosary and it was not there when I came back she said she wanted to give me this and told me it was from Vietnam and explained how this one priest would say the Chaplet hidden under a bridge and many came to pray with him even though the Vietnamese Government was hostile to any form of religious belief. The only authority they accepted was that of the communist government. I wear this always because it is a handy way to always have the Rosary/Chaplet handy but also to remind myself of how universal our Church is. No matter what form of Government Christians live under on this earth from communism, to monarchy's to republics there is always this rub a Christian has to deal with and that is; what is Caesar's and what is God's

The Church that Christ left us does not leave us abandoned to face that question alone. Catholic Social teaching teaches us there are 4 pillars holding up how we are to act in this world: and how our attitude should be:

1. The dignity of the human person we are all creations of God
2. The Common Good it is not what is good for the majority or privileged few but what is good for all.
3. Subsidiarity that authority and responsibility should be placed at the lowest level as possible In our Faith family is that lowest level. Not the State.
4. Solidarity What happens in one place affects us all ... we surely see that with this corona epidemic.

That is a very short explanation obviously. In our country we are blessed with the power of the vote but far too often we allow ourselves a very narrow view of our call to civic responsibility as Christians we argue and discuss our vote and we can become a

one and done mentality. We voted and we are all done. You may have seen the posters around the area that says, "Presidents come and go but Wu Tang is forever". My grandson had to explain to me who Wu Tang is and they are a Rap group apparently. But I thought it is true in a sense except presidents and presidential candidates come and go but Jesus is forever.

Our civic life is far broader than our vote It is caring for our families it is the volunteers that make a community better from religious education, sport coaching, scouting ... Volunteer fire and paramedics. It is also being responsible workers and business owners. It is taking the time to pick up trash by our waterways and wetlands. Volunteering to hospitals and nursing homes.

Our Patron Saint, Saint Luke's feast is today we could do no worse than reflect on him a healer and teacher of the word ... who focused his ministry on converting hearts and minds to Christ.

Another example and a more recent one is Dorothy Day though not an official Saint yet here on earth she surely is one in heaven.

Dorothy spent much of her early life caring about the poor and downtrodden by political solution she flirted with socialism and communism in one point of her life. Once converted to Christ she found Catholicism and Catholic Social Justice, and found her true calling. One of the many stories about Dorothy that sticks in my mind is when a priest came to do Mass at one of the Hospitality Houses Dorothy helped form. These houses fed the hungry and housed the homeless. The priest was in some sort of hurry and distracted. As he left Dorothy in her fiery way told the priest to never return if he was to give such a sloppy Mass. It is memorable to me because it gives us a great example of love and devotion to not only Social Justice but the Eucharistic Mystery of the Mass itself.

It is not a small thing for us to dwell on the hospitals, schools, orphanages home for unwed mothers and many other social

programs that were created by those following the call of the Catholic way of life. Many by the good sisters but not all. Each of us are still being called in some form or other. Perhaps not in such a dramatic way as St. Luke or Dorothy Day but we are called still.

We are called to be a great example of the fact that we are not just to be a Sunday Christian but to bring our Sunday into every aspect of our life.

