

ON ATTEMPTING TO VOTE “CATHOLIC” IN NOVEMBER OF 2016 (in St. Mary’s, Kansas)

In the midst of an election season that features what are arguably the two worst major-party presidential nominees in US history, there really are reasons why it is important for serious Catholics to vote in the upcoming election. I offer my suggestions, for what they are worth.

Because it is (or should be) the least important of all of them, let’s get the election for **U.S. PRESIDENT** out of the way first. Hillary Clinton, one of the slimiest, most corrupt gangsters ever to enter politics, is the Democrat nominee, and her open contempt and hatred for Catholic/ Christian morality, not to mention the Natural Law and Reality itself, is too well-documented to doubt. No serious Catholic or Christian can consider voting for her. The third-party nominees on the Kansas ballot are both pro-abortion and have other serious problems as well. This leaves the Republican nominee **Donald Trump**, a notorious libertine, whose nomination was celebrated by Hugh Hefner (founder of Playboy magazine) as a *major victory for the sexual revolution*, **suddenly re-invented** as the standard-bearer for the pro-life, pro-family cause! He has even promised to de-fund Planned Parenthood, appoint pro-life Supreme Court Justices, and overturn the pestiferous Johnson Amendment that has a chilling effect on political speech from the pulpit. As Michael Matt has pointed out, no previous nominee has ever made such pledges to “our side”. Will he, if elected, keep these promises better than he’s kept his matrimonial vows? One could be forgiven for doubting it, given what is known of his character or lack thereof. (He’s also made recent overtures to the LGBT lobby!) Bad as this guy is, he is clearly the lesser evil in this race (unlike previous GOP presidential nominees from Nixon onward, who were, by their political records, merely clones of their Democrat opponents, but with a different paint job). Possibly the strongest argument in favor of voting for Trump is the quality of the enemies he has made. Liberal GOP politicians including the Bushes, John McCain, and Mitt Romney have pledged not to vote for him, and “Bush I” has announced he’s voting for Hillary (does anyone still think *he’s* pro-life?). However, **if you still cannot stomach voting for this guy, even to stop Hillary**, on the admittedly flimsy basis of his promises, then please, rather than leaving this section blank, **WRITE IN** the names of **Darrell Castle and Chuck Baldwin** (President/ VP nominees of the Constitution Party), as they are solidly pro-life, pro-family and pro-Constitution.

The **U.S. CONGRESS (HOUSE)** is, or should be, the most important federal election. Congress controls the purse. If Congress refuses funding for a program by refusing to appropriate funds, the program is effectively killed. And it doesn’t depend on Senate concurrence or overriding a veto to stand. Unfortunately, the habit of Congress is to lump appropriations together, cutting political deals to get funding for pet “pork” projects. Worse, the ballot choices this year for the First District are dismal. The Republican nominee Roger Marshall “unseated” our incumbent Representative by means of a sleazy, well-funded (by out-of-state billionaires) Primary campaign of lies and half-truths, because our Congressman was, strangely enough, doing his duty of putting principle above politics. There is no Democrat on the ballot for this seat, and the “independent” may as well be a Democrat. I am begging voters to **WRITE IN** our incumbent Congressman **Tim Huelskamp** to retain his seat.

U.S. SENATE: Re-elect **Jerry Moran**. Not too great, but probably better than most current senators.

Kansas STATE SENATE: **Dave Jackson**.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE: **Francis Awerkamp**. (If you are outside of the Kansas House District that most of St. Mary’s is in, **Ron Highland** is recommended)

STATE BOARD of EDUCATION: **Sue Mollenkamp**. Homeschool mom with a big family. You have to like that.

POTT. COUNTY COMMISSIONER: **Travis Altenhofer**.

COUNTY SHERIFF: **Greg Riat**

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OTHER COUNTY OFFICES: The incumbents are unopposed and there seems to be no reason not to re-elect them. Ditto the **TOWNSHIP offices**.

JUDGES have a profound influence on our daily lives, probably more than they should. This is perhaps where we can have the biggest impact with our votes! In Kansas, **we can vote bad judges out of office**, and there are plenty of them on the ballot this year (plus a few good ones that should be retained!):

NOTE: “**NO**” means **remove** from office; “**YES**” means **retain** in office.

KANSAS SUPREME COURT JUDGES:

Carol Beier: **NO**
Dan Biles: **NO**
Lawton Nuss: **NO**
Marla Luckert: **NO**
Caleb Stegall: YES

COURT OF APPEALS JUDGES:

Steve Leben: **NO**
G. Joseph Pierron: **NO**
David E. Bruns: YES
G. Gordon Atcheson: **NO**
Karen Arnold-Berger: **NO**
Kathryn A. Gardner: YES

2nd DISTRICT COURT JUDGE:

Gary L. Nafziger: YES

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT: “**YES**” is suggested unless you know a good reason to vote otherwise!

Based on what I can ascertain, these are my recommendations. In politics there are no guarantees. Results may vary, etc. The **MOST** important thing you can do until, on, and beyond, Election Day, is to **PRAY AND DO PENANCE FOR OUR WRETCHED AND SINFUL NATION**. It may be that the biggest value obtainable by your votes will be the sacrificial value of taking the trouble to do it, if offered up. If you look at America’s woes, they basically boil down to **the continuing spread of the ERRORS OF RUSSIA!** And this is *because Russia has not been consecrated* as Our Lady requested, and **THAT** is perhaps because not enough of us are participating adequately in the current **Rosary Crusade** for that intention. Our nation’s problems are primarily **SPIRITUAL!** If the quality of our candidates for high office doesn’t convince you of that, I’d hate to think what would! **FACT:** As long as the consecration of Russia remains unaccomplished, the errors will keep spreading, even if Trump and **ALL** the Republicans win the election. Alternatively, once the consecration **IS** done as Our Lady asked, Russia will convert, its errors will stop spreading, and Christendom will flourish again, and not even a President Hillary and a government full of Democrats would be able to interfere. America’s inner demon is of the kind Our Lord spoke of, than cannot be cast out except by prayer and fasting! **Think “LEPANTO”!** Let us pray with confidence and perseverance!

In JMJ,



David Melechinsky