



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

October 31, 2012

My Very Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

May God, Who has brought us into being, given us life, and sustained us to this very hour, fill your hearts with the Holy Spirit's Gifts of Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Right Judgment, Courage, Reverence, and Awe in God's Eternal Presence.

On Tuesday, November 6, citizens of New Hampshire will be given the opportunity to cast a vote which will help to decide who will govern us both in our Nation and in our State.

Many eyes will turn toward New Hampshire. Knowing how seriously the citizens of this State engage in the work of citizenship, our State rises to a place of expectation and respect among the electorate. We, in a very real sense, share in leading the way.

This being the case, we must be seen and heard as citizens who always stand before the awesome judgment seat of Christ Himself, Who will ask for an accounting of our stewardship in this life.

If the eyes of all are to be turned toward us, then let those eyes be opened to the identity of the one in the womb, who is just beginning to enter the journey of life – the innocent one who has a name and a parentage and an immortal soul. If the eyes of all are turned toward us, then let them be opened to see us caring for the poor, the weak, the frightened, the disabled, the marginalized, and many more for whom Christ's love is made present.

Let the eyes of all see that people of faith stand up, in and for, the light of Christ in a world that is often darkened by sins of neglect. If the eyes of all are turned toward us, then let them see that the Church is engaged in those works that are ordered toward the common good of society. Let the eyes of all not be closed to the many Catholic hospitals, schools, homes for assisted living, soup kitchens, and clinics. Let them see the many institutions and works that are jeopardized, though they continue to be sorely needed and depended upon by so many government agencies who refer their needy cases to us. Let the eyes of all see the truth.

And if, in our Nation and our State, the freedom of religion is to be safeguarded as a guaranteed right, then let ears that listen be open to the words of our Creed: "I believe in One God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth." This belief of ours professes that we are citizens of Heaven as well as earth.

We believe in the Resurrection of the body and life everlasting! This belief professes the immortality of the soul and the judgment we face at the end of time when Christ comes again to "judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end."

On Tuesday, we will cast a vote – we will be charged to judge among candidates for public office for the good of our Nation and the good of our State. We will be standing before a slate of candidates, and we will also be standing before the awesome judgment seat of Christ. As we judge, so will we be judged.

In the Book of Deuteronomy we read the great summons to action:

Here, then, I have today set before you life and prosperity, death and doom. If you obey the commandments of the Lord, your God, . . . , you will live and grow numerous... Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the Lord, your God, heeding His voice, and holding fast to Him. For that will mean life for you, a long life for you to live on the land which the Lord swore He would give to your fathers Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (Deut.30:15,16;19,20)

As your Bishop, I write to you in the strongest terms and with the deepest respect. In the days that remain before the election, I urge you to learn about the positions of the candidates and prayerfully consider your vote. Vote on Tuesday, and cast your vote according to your God-given conscience. And may the Lord be glorified in all things.

I close, now, with the prayer that is offered at every Divine Liturgy of the Eastern Churches when the gifts are brought to the altar:

May the Lord God remember in His Kingdom our Holy Father, Benedict, the Pope of Rome, Our Most Reverend Metropolitan Archbishop, our God-loving Bishop, the entire priestly, monastic and diaconal order, our government and all in the service of our country.

Indeed, may the Lord God remember us all, the citizens of heaven and earth, now and forever.

Faithfully yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci
Bishop of Manchester