

Faithful Citizenship



January 6, 2008

I hope everyone had a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. I'd like to say "Peaceful" New Year, but this is Hawaii, and that just doesn't happen!

Well, with the Iowa caucuses this week, the political season is officially under way. What are the issues that you will use to judge the best candidate? Let's hope that they are deeper than those you would use to choose your favorite sport's team. If we are to vote as Catholics, we must look beyond the candidate's physical attributes (race, sex, age, roots, etc.) and weigh his or her positions on issues of real substance.

What about the war in Iraq? Does the candidate have a real, viable plan for us there? At the Last Supper, Jesus said, "My peace I give you. My peace I leave you." He wants us to hold a place in our hearts for each other. In the larger picture, we are tasked with protecting those who are not treated well. We need to help those who are abused by their leaders and kept from enjoying the freedoms we have here in the United States. There is such a thing as a "just" war. Have we had our "just" war? Do we leave Iraq? And if we do, how do we leave? What will happen there and back home when we do leave?

What about the right to life issues? What is the candidate's position on abortion and/or euthanasia? Our Catechism says, "The inalienable right to life of every innocent human individual is a constitutive element of a civil society and its legislation." Further it says, "Since it must be treated from conception as a person, the embryo must be defended in its integrity, cared for, and healed, as far as possible, like any other human being."

We have a responsibility to help decide what type of society we want to have. To be continued.....

Gotta go boot up my hard drive! Aloha - Mary B.