

Bulletin # 102656

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Fatima Mirror

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Spirit & Life

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Catholic Culture and the Election of Obama

An article by Father Thomas J. Euteneuer, President

It is impossible to speak of a "Catholic culture" in America any longer. A whole segment of the populace who call themselves "Catholics" do not feel bound by any standard of Catholic orthodoxy or sanity. In fact, it is impossible to even speak of a Catholic culture in most parishes! At a recent "ministry faire" of a large Catholic parish in south Florida, the Respect Life ministry of the parish displayed its pro-life materials next to the table of the "social justice" committee of the same parish. Any commonality between the two ministries was simply in the space they shared. Their worldviews could not have been further apart, but they both call themselves Catholic.

In fact, the "social justice" people were positively aglow about the election of their new messiah, Barack Obama. Several of them were speaking of their plans to attend the Inauguration and were utterly unaware that there would be 100,000 people marching on the nation's Capitol two days later for the right to life of unborn Americans which they had just voted into irrelevancy by electing Obama to the highest office of the land. One of them even expressed shock at the provisions of the upcoming Freedom of Choice Act until *he* was confronted with the nasty little fact that his messiah had been a sponsor of that pernicious bill in the last Congress. True to form, he steadfastly refused to allow that truth to have any effect on his euphoria. His mind was made up, and he would not let himself be confused by facts. Needless to say, the orthodox, practicing, believing Catholic pro-lifers will not be attending the Inauguration.

How can these two groups sit side-by-side in the same pews and display their ministries in the same space at the same Catholic parish? Simply because this contradiction has been tolerated for years by those in charge of our Church. In this election season neither of these two groups received any guidance about voting according to Catholic principles because, as per usual, there was



silence from the pulpit on the issue. The absolute failure of our church leaders to define for us what membership in the Church means - and then to enforce it - has led to the degradation of Catholic culture and the loss of meaning for things that are sacred. When Christ and Belial are considered equal partners in the sanctuary, then nothing in the sanctuary means anything any more and no meaningful standard exists to distinguish a true Catholic from a false Catholic.

The degradation of Catholic culture is largely, but not exclusively, the fault of the clergy. For four decades in the Catholic Church in America we have seen:

- Liturgical abuses run rampant, aided and abetted by those in charge
- Two or three generations of Catholics left un-catechized or taught with flimsy, Protestantized fluff passed off as Catholic education
- A blind eye turned to high profile dissent and political class heretics
- Wholesale attacks on sacred teachings that receive virtually no response from our pastors. The succumbing of our Catholic institutions of higher education to the ravages of political correctness, and the list goes on.

In the face of all this, should we be surprised that **54%** of "Catholics" voted for Barack? Hardly.

The battle for Catholic culture begins with us, and there is no time like the present to don the armor of spiritual warfare. We both believe and practice what the Church teaches or we live as part of the shadow church, falsely trading on the Name Catholic for its benefits without at the same time shouldering the crosses that this entails.

There is, however, great hope for the future because the battle has already been engaged: new Catholic colleges are springing up to replace the old decrepit houses of heresy, new religious orders with abundant vocations and orthodoxy have arisen, home schooling families and strong lay movements are abundant now. Only when we take back our beloved Church from the false Catholics and clerics will our Church be able to stand up and rebuke the storm winds of paganism that are building faster than we care to admit. This project is not without its price, however. The cost of being a true believer will undoubtedly be much higher than ever before in our lifetime. Starting now and into the next generation, we as Catholics will have to show the world not only *what* we believe but *that we are willing to lay down our lives for it* as a witness to the truth. by Father Thomas J. Euteneuer

At a July 17, 2007 Planned Parenthood Action Fund event, Senator Obama said, "Well, the first thing I'd do as president is, sign the Freedom of Choice Act."

The Bishops of the Catholic Church in the United States state: In the last Congress, a Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) was introduced that would outlaw any "interference" in providing abortion at will. It would deprive the American people in all fifty states of the freedom they now have to enact modest restraints and regulations on the abortion industry. FOCA would coerce all Americans into subsidizing and promoting abortion with their tax dollars. It would counteract any and all sincere efforts by government to reduce the number of abortions in our country. Parental notification and informed consent precautions would be outlawed, as would be laws banning procedures such as partial-birth abortion and protecting infants born alive after a failed abortion. FOCA would have an equally destructive effect on the freedom of conscience of doctors, nurses and health care workers whose personal convictions do not permit them to cooperate in the private killing of unborn children. It would threaten Catholic health care institutions.

MONEY MATTERS**Second Sunday of Advent (Dec. 7)**

257 people Celebrated Liturgy at O.L.F. contributing \$ 5,676.40 * of which \$ 195.70 accounted for "loose".

Envelopes In Circulation 236 # Used 115 # Unused 121

Chicken Soup Sale Total Profit = \$525.01.

* A parishioner had an unexpected windfall and because of a commitment made to God, our parish benefited from it.

**O.L.F. CHRISTMAS COOKIE BAKE SALE, Sat. & Sun.
December 20 - 21, 2008**



**Make purchases
before and after
Masses
on
Saturday
and
Sunday**

Bring your homemade baked goods to the Rectory anytime during the week, but definitely by Noon on Friday so that our Elves can box, price, and arrange your products in suitably festive presentations. In the past, this particular fundraiser has proven to be highly successful. So, give it your special touch and your best shot!

MASS INTENTIONS FOR December 15 - 21, 2008

Monday	12/15	08:00 AM	Carol Smith, B-day , Shirley Smithmeyer	<i>Advent Weekday</i>
Tuesday	12/16	08:00 AM	Debra Shuma , Homer & Patty Paulus	<i>Advent Weekday</i>
Wednesday	12/17	08:00 AM	Joseph Boslet, B-day , Wife Marian	<i>Advent Weekday</i>
Thursday	12/18	08:00 AM	Pat Dennis , M/M Tom Byrne	<i>Late Advent Weekday</i>
Friday	12/19	08:00 AM	Liv/Dec of Our Lady of Fatima Parish	<i>Late Advent Weekday</i>
Saturday	12/20	04:30 PM	Josephine Coppola , Erma Iannaello	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
Sunday	12/21	09:00 AM	Frank Filipiak , Christine Manna & Family	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>
Sunday	12/21	11:00 AM	Joseph Boslet , Pressler & Tomasseti Families	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>