



## From the Desk of Fr. Leo F. Arnone

**Voter's Guide for Serious Catholics:** I contacted *Catholic Answers* to request permission to reproduce their 2004 publication, and they

graciously granted it. In this week's bulletin you will find an excellent explanation on how our Catholic Faith ought to be well informed and utilized when casting our vote. Please take the time to read it and then pass it on to your fellow Catholics.

**Bishop Naumann - Priorities at the Polls:** As Catholics approach the polls, we are asked to weigh many important issues. The U.S. bishops have reaffirmed that "the threat of abortion remains our preeminent priority because it directly attacks life itself, because it takes place within the sanctuary of the family, and because of the number of lives destroyed." [2,000 per day in America; 61 million since 1973.] While they did warn us not to "dismiss or ignore other serious threats to human life and dignity such as racism, the environmental crisis, poverty, and the death penalty," they did give priority to upholding and defending our brothers' and sisters' most basic right—to live. [...]

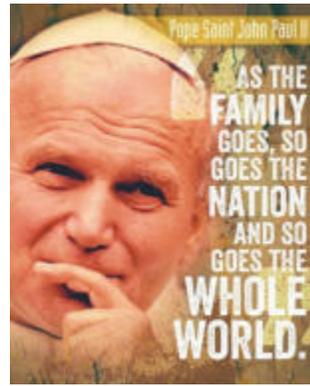
People of good will must boldly stand up against this intrinsic evil, especially when it is occurring on a massive scale, implemented in law and funded, in some instances, by the government. As believers and citizens inspired by the Gospel..., we must do what we can to end violence in the womb, to ensure that unborn children are fully recognized and protected by our laws, and to support mothers and fathers in embracing life. -- *Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann, Chair of USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities.*

**The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults** meets on Thur, Oct. 8, 5:45 to 6:45pm, SA rectory. Our focus is on the candidates and we welcome others who want to refresh their Religious Education. This week's topic – *Jesus: Lord and Messiah.*



**My Poor Box Offering for St. Vincent de Paul Society:** I'd like to call your attention to these envelopes included in your packets. Your donations made to SVDP is one way of "neighbors helping neighbors" in that your donations remain local.

**Rummage Sale Remnants:** While a lot of items did move during our festival, a lot still remains. We will open the Sale again on Sunday, Oct. 11, from 11:00am to 1:00pm and invite you all to visit SA church basement to see what treasures you may find. To our young families: there is still a lot of children's clothing available!



## FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO

The Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World

### Part. 1: BRIGHT SPOTS AND SHADOWS FOR THE FAMILY TODAY

#### **Gradualness and Conversion**

9. To the injustice originating from sin-which has profoundly penetrated the structures of today's world and often hindering the family's full realization of itself and of its fundamental

rights, we must all set ourselves in opposition through a conversion of mind and heart, following Christ Crucified by denying our own selfishness: such a conversion cannot fail to have a beneficial and renewing influence even on the structures of society.

What is needed is a continuous, permanent conversion which, while requiring an interior detachment from every evil and an adherence to good in its fullness, is brought about concretely in steps which lead us ever forward. Thus, a dynamic process develops, one which advances gradually with the progressive integration of the gifts of God and the demands of His definitive and absolute love in the entire personal and social life of man. Therefore, an educational growth process is necessary, in order that individual believers, families and peoples, even civilization itself, by beginning from what they have already received of the mystery of Christ, may patiently be led forward, arriving at a richer understanding and a fuller integration of this mystery in their lives.

#### **Inculturation**

10. In conformity with her constant tradition, the Church receives from the various cultures everything that is able to express better the unsearchable riches of Christ. Only with the help of all the cultures will it be possible for these riches to be manifested ever more clearly, and for the Church to progress towards a daily more complete and profound awareness of the truth, which has already been given to her in its entirety by the Lord.

Holding fast to the two principles of the compatibility with the Gospel of the various cultures to be taken up, and of communion with the universal Church, there must be further study, particularly by the Episcopal Conferences and the appropriate departments of the Roman Curia, and greater pastoral diligence so that this "inculturation" of the Christian faith may come about ever more extensively, in the context of marriage and the family as well as in other fields.

It is by means of "inculturation" that one proceeds towards the full restoration of the covenant with the Wisdom of God, which is Christ Himself. The whole Church will be enriched also by the cultures which, though lacking technology, abound in human wisdom and are enlivened by profound moral values.

So that the goal of this journey might be clear and consequently the way plainly indicated, the Synod was right to begin by considering in depth the original design of God for marriage and the family: it "went back to the beginning," in deference to the teaching of Christ.

**Reflection:** By "inculturation" JPII is referring to the influence our Catholic Faith ought to have on the world around us. (Be Salt & Light for the world!)

