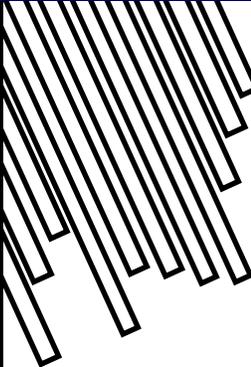


Decisions, Decisions, Decisions...



In our every day we find ourselves tasked with making decision after decision. Some are small, some are large and life-altering. At this time of the year, we are constantly bombarded with all things voting. “You should vote this way because...” or “you shouldn’t vote this way because...” In the larger picture, how do our decisions affect the world around us? Politics and political agenda are not what is important when making a decision about how to vote, what matters most is how people are being affected, neglected or abused by the decisions that are made.

Voting aside, the decisions that we make every day never affect just one person. Most often when we make a decision, it’s because that’s what we want; this will give me the most benefit, it will please more people this way... Do we ever stop to ask how this decision will affect the marginalized? How will it affect those who will be affected by our decision in a negative way?

“If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.”
St. Teresa of Calcutta

So often when we vote, we never think about those who will be affected in a negative way by our decisions. We justify that it will do more good than it will harm. But in pushing aside those whom it will hurt, we are pushing aside people who are just as human, just as worthy and just as loved by God as we are.

When we go to cast our ballots, or make everyday decisions through our day, do we stop to think how we are being present to those who are overlooked and uncared for? Can we make a valid effort to think of how our everyday decisions will affect those who are most overlooked and deemed unworthy by popular society? Vote not for a party, or an agenda; vote not for a proposition. Rather, vote for people and the dignity of each and every person.

“I have looked into your eyes with my eyes. I have put my heart near your heart.”
St. John XXIII

Spirit of Wisdom, speak loud into my heart. Bring peace and consolation to every decision that I have to make, both big and small. Let me not lose the courage to stand for what is right. May I maintain a steadfast bravery for those who cannot speak and for those who are silenced by the indifference of this world.

“Let us open our eyes and see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sisters who are denied their dignity, and let us recognize that we are compelled to heed their cry for help! May we reach out to them and support them so they can feel the warmth of our presence, our friendship, and our fraternity! May their cry become our own, and together may we break down the carriers of indifference that too often reign supreme and mask our hypocrisy and egoism!” Pope Francis