

From this Corner
An Informed Act of Faith

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It is hard not to think about politics this year, and as we approach Election Day it is harder still. The thing I like least about these times is political advertisements. They are simplistic and often essentially untruthful. It doesn't seem to matter which party is involved. I have found some magazines helpful to intelligently look at the candidates, newspapers less so and television ads the least.

I always find it interesting what religious affiliation the candidates espouse. This year in Obama we have a member of The United Church of Christ, who has been embarrassed by his particular local church's far left tilt. I can identify with that because sometimes a division within our denomination embarrasses me for the same reason. John McCain grew up Episcopalian, now attends a Southern Baptist Church, and seems to generally shy away from much comment on the same. Maybe he holds to half the theory that it is best not to talk about politics and religion. I can identify with that as I generally hold to the other half of that theory and usually decline to talk politics. With the vice presidential aspirants we have a Roman Catholic in Joe Biden, and an independent evangelical in Sarah Palin. It appears all are willing to claim the Christian faith as their own. What that means is sometimes difficult to determine. We remember that George Bush and Hillary Clinton are both active United Methodists, and their politics are significantly different. I would also not question that both try to put their faith in action in their political policy.

So what we have here is a difficult discernment process. What the Bible calls upon us to believe and do is not without its consequences in the voting booth. (Matthew 22:21; 1 Peter 2: 13-17; Romans 13:5; and Acts 5:29) Because we believe governments can do God's work, the act of choosing becomes an act of faith albeit a political act.

I don't know about you, but my approach is going to be one of prayer, reading, and having my thumb on the television remote Mute button. Hopefully by the time I cast my vote it will be an informed act of faith. May it be so with you.