



SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH

1502 E Wallen Rd Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Phone: (260)489-3537 Fax: (260)497-9405

www.saintv.org

October 11, 2020
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

My dear parishioners of St. Vincent's,

Christ's peace, and every blessing to you in these times! In the midst of the pandemic and the upcoming national elections, there is palpable "dis-ease" in the body politic regarding the future of our nation and exactly how the Lord is calling and equipping us to bear faithful witness from the heart of His Church in this moment of history.

As your Pastor, I shall be offering you my shepherding counsel on these matters in the coming weeks, sharing with you the fruit of my prayer and proposing the shared direction of ours as a Parish.

This week's counsel comes from my experience over the years of watching as much as possible of the Senate confirmation hearings for nominees to the Supreme Court. Even though I haven't owned a TV since college, I have deliberately gone out of my way to view the testimony and questioning of the future Justices Alito, Sotomayor, Kagen, Gorsuch, and Kavanaugh. These hours have always provided an invaluable civics refresher course and a crucial glimpse into the heart of where the legislative and judicial branches of government intersect for the long-term well-being of our Republic.

On Monday of this week, Nominee Amy Coney Barrett will begin her testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Judge Coney Barrett once taught at Notre Dame Law School, and I am good friends with several of her colleagues and former students---all of whom hold her in high esteem as both a jurist and someone with personal integrity. As has been widely reported, Judge Coney Barrett is Catholic and lives her Catholic faith from within an intentional Christian community, prompting one Senator to remark: "The dogma lives loudly within you."

I believe that it is vitally important for us to study both the judicial philosophy and the Catholic witness of Amy Coney Barrett. The form and content of her testimony will be revelatory not only of the issues that most deeply divide our nation; her public witness also promises to show how one might navigate these issues with intelligent clarity and personal charity.

My recommendation to you is to watch the nomination hearings directly on C-Span and to avoid as much as possible other external commentary and spin from the usual platforms of confrontation. The Senators from both political parties will marshal their best resources to show us what is at stake.

We must also set aside extra time to bring these considerations to sustained contemplative prayer, entrusting our nation and our own faithful Catholic witness to the Lord for the Holy Spirit to guide our discernment with prudence, courage and peace. Toward this goal my prayers are always yours.

In St. Vincent's love of Christ,

Fr. Daniel Scheidt