



Oblate Program at Belmont Abbey, NC

October, 2020

WEBSITE UPDATE

After many delaying tactics the Oblate Website will be under-going some "behind the scenes upgrades. We ask you to have patience as we work through the issues of this change-over. The webpage designers have assured that all the information will be carried over and will be assessable almost immediately



COMPARISON OF PARTY PLATFORMS

Priests for Life have again issued a Comparison of the Republican and Democratic Platforms. A copy of this comparison is on the inside of this newsletter.

OBLATE MEETINGS

Oblates: Meetings are discontinued for the current year. A decision will be made in December concerning future meetings.

Novice Oblates: Will continue to meet on-line.



GREAT HAPPINESS

The monastery, writes Thomas Merton, is a school in which the monastic learns from God how to be happy. It is surely so. It is equally sure that *lectio divina* — an essential monastic observance — contributes to it in a pre-

eminent, exceptional and unique way. Psalm 1 says so clearly:

Happy are they who follow not
the counsel of the wicked
Nor walk in the way of sinners,

nor sit in the company of the insolent,
But delight in the law of the Lord
and meditate on God's law day and night.

Not only does God tell us in *lectio* how to be happy, but the *lectio* itself is our happiness. St. Jerome, the undisputed master of everything referring to "divine reading," has some very beautiful pages on the subject. He knew from experience the delights hidden in the Scriptures for those who know how to discover them. Writing to St. Paulinus of Nola, he says, "I beg you, dearest brother, to live among those things, to meditate upon them, to know nothing, to seek nothing outside of them. Does it not seem to you that this is to have already here on earth dwelling in the hea-venly kingdom?" And to Paula, his faithful disciple in the ascetical life and in the reading of the Bible, "What food, what honey can be sweeter than to know the providence of God, to penetrate God's secrets, to examine the thoughts of the Creator and to be taught in the words of your Lord. They are an object of derision to the wise of this world, but they are filled with spiritual wisdom. In the world, these others cling to their wealth, they drink from cups encrusted with pearls, they glitter in silk, they enjoy popular acclaim, and by reason of the variety of their pleasures they are incapable of overcoming their opulence. Let our delight consist in meditating on the law of the Lord day and night, to knock at the door that does not open, to receive the bread of the Trinity and, since the Lord goes before us, to despise the fleshspots of that world."

Would it be wrong to assert - paradoxically - that the sweetest fruit of *lectio divina* is *lectio divina* itself? The reading that seeks begets the reading that finds. Laborious, painstaking ascetical reading begets restful, sweet, contemplative and mystical reading. Garcia M. Colombas, *Reading God*, pp. 91-92

A Comparison of the Republican and Democratic Platforms

A non-partisan guide on issues
of concern to the electorate
Quotes taken from platforms
in effect 2020-2024

REPUBLICAN PLATFORM

KEY ISSUE

DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

"The Constitution's guarantee that no one can "be deprived of life, liberty or property" deliberately echoes the Declaration of Independence's proclamation that "all" are "endowed by their Creator" with the inalienable right to life. Accordingly, we assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed. We support a human life amendment to the Constitution and legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to children before birth." (p.13)

Human Life

"Democrats believe every woman should be able to access ... abortion. We oppose and will fight to overturn federal and state laws that create barriers to women's reproductive health and rights, including by repealing the Hyde Amendment and protecting and codifying the right to reproductive freedom." (p.42)

"We oppose the use of public funds to perform or promote abortion or to fund organizations, like Planned Parenthood, so long as they provide or refer for elective abortions or sell fetal body parts rather than provide healthcare." (p.13)

Planned Parenthood

"We will repeal the Title X domestic gag rule and restore federal funding for Planned Parenthood" (p.32)

"We support the appointment of judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of innocent human life." (p.13)

Judges

"We will appoint U.S. Supreme Court justices and federal judges who look like America ... and will respect and enforce foundational precedents, including ... Roe v. Wade."(p.39)

"We support options for learning, including home-schooling, career and technical education, private or parochial schools, magnet schools, charter schools, online learning, and early-college high schools. We especially support the innovative financing mechanisms that make options available to all children: education savings accounts (ESAs), vouchers, and tuition tax credits." (p.34)

Education/ School Choice

"Democrats oppose private school vouchers and other policies that divert taxpayer-funded resources away from the public school system." (p. 67)

"We renew our call for replacing "family planning" programs for teens with sexual risk avoidance education that sets abstinence until marriage as the responsible and respected standard of behavior." (p.34)

Sex Education

"We recognize that quality, affordable comprehensive health care; medically accurate, LGBTQ+ inclusive, age-appropriate sex education; and the full range of family planning services are all essential to ensuring that people can decide if, when, and how to start a family." (p.32)

"The integrity of our country's foreign assistance program has been compromised by the ...[Obama] Administration's attempt to impose on foreign recipients, especially the peoples of Africa, its own radical social agenda while excluding faith-based groups — the sector with the best track record in promoting development — because they will not conform to that agenda. We pledge to reverse this course...." (p.52)

Foreign Assistance

"We will support the repeal of the global gag rule (also known as the Mexico City Policy) and measures like the Helms Amendment, which limit safe access to abortion. We will also restore and expand American contributions to the United Nations Population Fund" (pp. 82-83)

This flier and the full texts of the party platforms may be found at www.VotingInfo.net.

This guide has been legally approved for distribution by Churches and 501-(c)-3 organizations.
Legal letter and online version at VotingInfo.net. The Republican Party reaffirmed their 2016 platform without change.

Comparación de las Plataformas de Campaña de los partidos Demócrata y Republicano

Una guía no partidista sobre asuntos de interés para el electorado
Citas tomadas de plataformas vigentes 2020-2024

PLATAFORMA REPUBLICAN

CUESTIÓN FUNDAMENTAL

PLATAFORMA DEMÓCRATA

“La garantía Constitucional de que nadie puede ser “privado de la vida, la libertad y la propiedad” hace deliberadamente eco sobre la proclamación de la Declaración de Independencia de que “todos” han sido “dotados por parte de su Creador” con el derecho inalienable de la vida. Del mismo modo, nosotros reivindicamos la santidad de la vida humana y afirmamos que el niño no nacido tiene un derecho fundamental a la Vida, el cual no puede ser infringido. Nosotros apoyamos una enmienda constitucional y una legislación que deje claro, -en cuanto a la vida humana -, que las protecciones de la Décimo-cuarta Enmienda aplican para los niños antes del nacimiento.” (p. 13)

La Vida Humana

“Los Demócratas creen que cada mujer debería tener acceso...al aborto. Nos oponemos y lucharemos para revertir las leyes federales y estatales que creen barreras a los derechos reproductivos y de salud de todas las mujeres, incluyendo la derogación de la Enmienda Hyde y la protección y codificación del derecho a la libertad reproductiva.” (p. 42)

“Nos oponemos al uso de fondos públicos para desarrollar o promover el aborto y financiar organizaciones como Planned Parenthood mientras éstas continúen realizando o recomendando abortos selectivos, o vendan partes u órganos fetales en lugar de proveer atención hospitalaria y de salud pública.” (p. 13)

Planned Parenthood

“Derogaremos la ley mordaza “Título X” y restauraremos la financiación federal para Planned Parenthood.” (p.32)

“Apoyamos la designación de jueces que respeten los valores de la familia tradicional y la santidad de la vida humana inocente.” (p.13)

Jueces

“Nombraremos jueces federales y magistrados a la Corte Suprema de Estados Unidos que se parezcan a Estados Unidos... y respetemos y haremos cumplir los precedentes fundacionales, incluyendo ...Roe vs Wade”. (p. 39)

“Apoyamos las opciones de aprendizaje, incluidas la educación en el hogar, la educación de carreras y técnicas, escuelas privadas y parroquiales, institutos especializados, escuelas particulares subvencionadas, aprendizaje en línea, y escuelas secundarias de ingreso preuniversitario temprano. De manera especial, apoyamos los mecanismos innovadores de financiación que ponen a disposición diversas opciones escolares para todos los niños: (ESAs) Cuentas de Ahorro para la Educación, cupones, y créditos sobre impuestos para pagos de matrícula.” (p. 34)

Educación/ Opción Escolar

“Los demócratas se oponen a los bonos escolares para escuelas privadas y otras políticas que desvían del sistema escolar público los recursos financiados por los contribuyentes.” (p.67)

“Renovamos nuestro llamado a reemplazar los programas de “planificación familiar” para adolescentes con educación preventiva de riesgo sexual que propone la abstinencia hasta el matrimonio como un estándar de comportamiento respetado y responsable.” (p. 34)

Educación Sexual

“Reconocemos que el cuidado de la salud universal, accesible y de calidad; la educación sexual acertada médicamente, incluyente de la comunidad LGBTQ+, apropiada a la edad; así como el espectro completo de los servicios de planificación familiar son esenciales para asegurar que las personas decidan si, cuándo y cómo formar una familia.” (p.32)

“La integridad del programa de Asistencia Exterior de nuestro país ha sido comprometido por la ...[Obama] Administración en su intento por imponer a los receptores extranjeros, especialmente a los pueblos de África, su propia agenda social radical mientras excluye a los grupos y etnias religiosas – el sector con el mejor récord verificable en la promoción del desarrollo – en tanto ellos no se avendrán ni ajustarán a dicha agenda. Juramos y nos comprometemos a revertir el curso de éste programa.” (p.52)

Asistencia Exterior

“Apoyaremos la derogación de la ley de mordaza global (también conocida como la política de Ciudad de México) y medidas como la Enmienda Helms, que limitan el acceso seguro al aborto. Restauraremos y ampliaremos las contribuciones estadounidenses al Fondo para la Población de Naciones Unidas” (pp. 82-83)

Este volante y los textos completos de la plataforma de los partidos se puede encontrar en www.VotingInfo.net.

Esta guía ha sido legalmente aprobada para la distribución de las Iglesias y organizaciones 501-(c)-3.

Para mayor información legal y obtener la versión en línea, ver www.VotingInfo.net.

Producido por Priests for Life
(Sacerdotes por la Vida)

Encuentra más recursos sobre las elecciones en ResponsabilidadPolitica.com

Por favor, copie y distribuya libremente.

HOW CATHOLICS CAN SEE HALLOWEEN AT ITS BEST

Whether you dress up as a ghoul, a hero, or a saint, Halloween has a Christian origin that should inspire us to remember our mortality and our redemption in Christ, Bishop David Konderla of Tulsa has said. “In contrast to popular culture’s observance of Halloween, even the customary appeal to the ‘frightful’ has a devotional meaning in the Catholic tradition. Props such as skulls and scythes have historically recalled our mortality, reminding us to be holy because we are destined for judgment,” the bishop said, citing Hebrews 9:27 and Revelation 14:15. “Visible symbols of death thus represent a reminder of the last things – death, judgment, Heaven, and hell.”

Halloween has origins in the Catholic liturgical calendar, he said, but the customs surrounding it have “drifted from the feast’s intended meaning and purpose.” The name itself derives from the archaic English phrase “All Hallows’ Evening,” referring to the Eve of All Saints. Since All Saints can begin with evening prayer the night before, Halloween is the feast’s “earliest possible celebration.”

“While the ‘Gothic’ aspect of Halloween reminds us of Christian teaching about the resurrection of the dead, our culture often represents this in a distorted manner, for when the dead are raised they will in truth be ‘clothed with incorruptibility,’” said Bishop Konderla. When separated from Catholic teaching, the holiday’s grim, ghoulish, or “Gothic” costumes can be mistaken as “celebration or veneration of evil or of death itself, contradicting the full and authentic meaning of Halloween.”

“For the Christian, Christ has conquered death, as has been prophesied and fulfilled,” he said. “Christ has conquered death by his Passion, Death, and Resurrection, the Paschal Mystery whose graces are evident in the glory of all saints.”

The bishop also discussed the custom of dressing up as Christian saints. “The custom of dressing up for Halloween is devotional in spirit,” he said. “By dressing up as the saints whom we most admire, we imagine ourselves following their example of Christian discipleship. This practice allows the lay faithful in festive celebration to become ‘living icons’ of the saints, who are themselves ‘icons’ or ‘windows’ offering real-life examples of the imitation of Christ.”

“In dressing up as saints we make Christian discipleship our own in a special way, following the exhortation of St. Paul: ‘Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ,’” he said, citing Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians. Bishop Konderla invoked the imagery of the saints used in the Book of Revelation. “Proper veneration of the saints naturally leads to adoration of the Lamb who was slain, whom the saints adore and follow wherever he goes,” he said. “True devotion to the saints, through our prayers and imitation of their witness, leads us sinners back to Christ.”

The bishop also voiced a few warnings. He said it is important to avoid Halloween popularizations of things that are contrary to the Catholic faith. These include the glamorization or celebration of “anything involving superstition, witches, witchcraft, sorcery, divinations, magic, and the occult.”

“We want to be good models of Christian virtue for those we serve and make clear distinctions between that which is good and that which is evil,” he added. “Let us urge one another this Halloween to express in every detail of our observance the beauty and depth of the Feast of All Saints,” Bishop Konderla concluded.

“Let us make this year’s celebration an act of true devotion to God, whose saints give us hope that we too may one day enter into the Kingdom prepared for God’s holy ones from the beginning of time.” (Source: *Catholic News Agency*)

NECROLOGY

OCTOBER

- 1 Br. Obl. Timothy Guidera (1951)
- 4 Fr. Paschal Baumstein (2007)
- 9 Br. William Murray (1926)
- 10 Fr. John Oetgen (2009)
- 12 Br. Boniface Schreiber (1928)
- 14 Fr. Charles Rettger (1916)
- 20 Fr. Augustine Ecker (1934)
- 24 Fr. Alcuin Baudermann (1975)
- 26 Fr. Lawrence Willis (2003)
- 27 Fr. Patrick Donahue (1994)
- 29 Fr. John Smith (1942)
- 31 Fr. Walter O’Brien (1932)
- 31 Fr. Stanislaus Bethel (1941)

ORDO

OCTOBER

- 1 Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin. Memorial
- 2 Guardian Angels, Patron of Congregation. Feast
- 4 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week III)
- 6 Bruno, Priest, Hermit, Memorial
- 7 Our Lady of the Rosary. Memorial
- 11 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week IV)
- 15 Teresa of Jesus, Virgin. Memorial
- 17 Ignatius of Antioch, Memorial
- 18 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week I)
- 22 John Paul II, Pope. (Opt. Memorial)
- 25 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Week II)
- 28 Simon and Jude, Apostles. Feast