



“FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JONATHAN”

OCTOBER 2, 2016

Early last week I had a wonderful conversation with an elderly man in the neighborhood about the upcoming presidential election. He asked me who I wanted to "win" the debate that was to be held that night. I responded by saying that I wasn't happy with either of the candidates and that I was praying for our country, that somehow good would come from all of this.

He was silent for a moment and then said, "Well, Father, I have been around for a long time. And I can tell you that I am not worried at all." "What do you mean?", I asked him. "Well, when I came to this country in the 1930's, I fell in love with a country, not a single leader". "I fell in love with a place where I had the freedom to live my life and my faith and to build a future for my family. Our country might be different today, but it is still the land of the free and of the brave. Neither of these two presidential candidates are going to take that away from us."

I was impressed by this man's optimism and common sense. It is easy to get wrapped up in the horseshoe of who will win and to place our hope in one or another candidate. Yes, elections have consequences (the Supreme Court nominees, for example) but, like this wise gentleman reminded me, we are still a strong country with the freedom to become better. Let us pray for our politicians and for all civic leaders that they might seek always the common good of all human beings so that you and I, in turn, can do our part to become the people and the society that God has called us to be.

**God Bless,
Father Jonathan**

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