



# Catholics United for the Faith

Affirming Authentic Catholicism in Milwaukee

St. Gregory VII Chapter  
October, 2020

## Cardinal Muller: Election will decide if 'democracy' or 'dictatorship' leads the world

October 1, 2020 (LifeSiteNews) By Calvin Freiburger – Whether Donald Trump is re-elected or ousted as President of the United States will have a generational impact on whether America or China is the dominant power on the world stage, Cardinal Gerhard Muller told Breitbart News in an interview Thursday.

“The outcome of the U.S. election will determine whether the U.S. remains the leading power in the world – for freedom and democracy – or whether a communist dictatorship will assume that role for the global community,” said Muller, who is the former prefect of the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. “The world is looking to America because this fateful election will determine the future of democracy and human rights for decades to come.”

“The rivalry between the U.S. and Communist China is not a sporting competition for the first or second place of superpowers,” he continued. “It is about the irreconcilable alternatives of democracy or dictatorship.”

From World War II to the Cold War, “the free world owes the American people the salvation of Western civilization, which has its foundation in the freedom and dignity of every person,” Muller said, but warned that this legacy is “now being challenged” by China. “Because the U.S. is the first power in the free world, it must also put a stop to the imperialist grip of a communist superpower that seeks world domination and allow the Chinese people and other oppressed peoples to enter the community and solidarity of free peoples.”

The Cardinal also called on both the Catholic Church and rank-and-file Christians to heed the significance of the election, from the “truth of the absolute value of every individual person” and “freedom of religion” to the “deeper dimensions of what is at stake at this moment in world history, rather than offering a judgment based on subjective sensibilities and ideological preferences.”

“Three points are decisive in the upcoming elections,” Muller summarized. “First, the ‘yes’ to life against abortion, second, freedom of religion against the mainstreaming of gender ideology, and third, the mission of the United States to defend democracy and human rights against dictatorships.”

Former Vice President Joe Biden is campaigning on a plan to enshrine virtually-unlimited abortion into federal law at taxpayer expense. By contrast, Trump has worked to oppose federal funding of abortion and the abortion industry, including restoring and expanding the Mexico City Policy (which bars foreign aid to abortion groups), excluded organizations involved in abortion from family planning funds, and endorsed legislation to fully defund Planned Parenthood and ban late-term abortion.

### “How to vote according to our Catholic faith,” by Bishop Donald Hying

An excerpt: “...The United States bishops have declared abortion as the preeminent moral issue because no other fundamental moral evil has destroyed more human lives...I cannot ignore that disturbing fact and so, personally, I cannot vote for a presidential candidate who advocates for the continued legalization of abortion. If a candidate is fundamentally wrong on such a basic and preeminent human rights issue of grave consequence to the most innocent in our society and to our own future, how can I trust the candidate to make moral and prudent decisions on many other important social justice issues pertaining to the common good? These fundamental questions are issues of both truth and conscience which each of us must take to prayer and ask the Lord to guide us...” 9-23-20, Diocese of Madison, *Catholic Herald*. (emphasis added)

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## On the Oct. 2 Memorial of the Guardian Angels, from EWTN Chaplain, Fr. Wolfe, MFVA

“Dear [EWTN] Family, On October 2, we celebrate the memorial of the Guardian Angels. Mother Angelica had a marvelous devotion to the Angels, especially to her Guardian Angel. Each morning, Mother and her nuns began the day with this prayer: *“Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God’s love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light, to guard, to rule and to guide. Amen.”* This is a practice the nuns continue to this day. For many, this charming prayer was the first to be memorized as children. It is my hope that all of us, becoming like children again, will begin our day with this simple prayer. Every human being, as a gift from the Father, was given a Guardian Angel to assist them along the winding paths of this world. Yet, how few call upon their heavenly friend! In an age when so many struggle with loneliness, we need a renewal in devotion to the Guardian Angels. May the reality of our Angel’s presence, guidance, and intercession transform all loneliness into blessed companionship!

On October 9, we celebrate the memorial of **St. John Henry Newman**. I want to briefly look at his inspiring devotion to his Guardian Angel. In his poem titled *“Guardian Angel,”* Newman says that his Guardian Angel is his **oldest friend, his faithful friend, his sponsor at the baptismal font, and the brother of his soul**. He goes on to state that no other saint knows his being as well as his Angel. He sees clearly how, throughout life, his Guardian Angel whispered elements of truth into his ear, shuddered at his sins, consoled him, and helped to make holy every pain. Being a convert, Newman recognized the role that his Angel played in leading him to full communion with the Church. Finally, Newman highlights the profound role his Guardian Angel would play at the hour of death. May St. John Henry Newman’s tender devotion to his Guardian Angel inspire us to foster an ever-deepening devotion to our oldest and most faithful friend!”

In Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Joseph Mary Wolfe, MFVA, EWTN Chaplain, *EWTN Family Newsletter*, October, 2020

## Catechetical Corner: Is there a special prayer for a loved one who has left the faith?

Yes, *“Prayer for a Loved One’s Return to the Faith:”* Lord Jesus, most gracious Savior of the world, we beg of You, by Your most Sacred Heart, that all the sheep now wandering astray, especially (name), may be given the grace and strength to return to You, the Shepherd of their souls. No matter how they have been alienated from full union with Your Mystical Body, the Church, whether by bad marriage, ignorance, neglect, indifference, or bad example from other Catholics, may they be able to overcome these obstacles and find once again the loving protection of Your divine embrace. Amen

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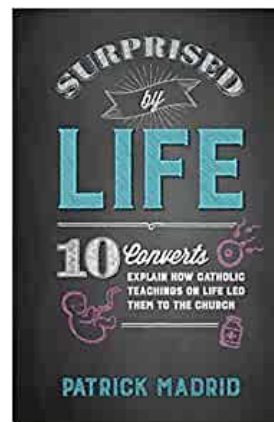
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## Book of the Month: *“Surprised by Life”*

Author: Patrick Madrid

Publisher: Sophia Institute Press, 2017

10 converts explain how the Church’s teaching on life led us into the Catholic Church. “Dramatic and thought-provoking, these intensely personal stories address virtually every controversial issue surrounding life, including in vitro fertilization, abortion, contraception, and more. Gathered by popular Catholic apologist Patrick Madrid, they turn on its head the oft-heard charge that Catholics embrace the Church’s teachings on life only ‘because they are Catholics.’ These good folks show the opposite: they are Catholics because of the Church’s pro-life teachings. In these pages you’ll meet...Leila, the contracepting, pro-sterilization wife whose views were overthrown by the stark contrast between Planned Parenthood and the sweet memory of the wise pro-life teachings of her college ethics teacher, good Fr. Ryan...According to Jennifer Fulwiler, author of *Something Other Than God*, These deeply personal, unforgettable stories address what is arguably the most important issue of our time and will change how you see the world...”



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# “Faith-Based Nonprofits and Political Activity”

September 16, 2020

[www.churchmilitant.com](http://www.churchmilitant.com)

On May 4, 2017, President Trump passed a historic executive order granting religious non profits the freedom to engage in political speech without fearing federal prosecution. This portion of the order largely flew under the radar and drew little media attention. But its implications are massive: The president has ordered the federal government not to prosecute any religious organization that engages in political speech or advocacy.

Titled “**Presidential Executive Order Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty**,” the key segment is section 2: [T]he Secretary of the Treasury shall ensure, to the extent permitted by law, that the Department of the Treasury does not take any adverse action against any individual, house of worship or other religious organization on the basis that such individual or organization speaks or has spoken about moral or political issues from a religious perspective, where speech of similar character has, consistent with law, not ordinarily been treated as participation or intervention in a political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) a candidate for public office by the Department of the Treasury.

In other words, faith-based nonprofits have the freedom to speak out publicly on political issues without fearing penalties, including loss of their tax-exempt status. What are the implications for Catholics? According to Trey Trainor, chairman of the Federal Election Commission, Catholic bishops, priests, leaders and non-profits can freely speak out on moral and political issues without fear of repercussions from the federal government. “Especially with this executive order that President Trump signed, the churches can absolutely engage in that activity now,” said Trainor. He clarified that bishops should not be using the Johnson Amendment to stay

silent on candidates, or to censor their priests. “The bishops are using their nonprofit status as a shield to hide behind from having to make a decision about who to support,” he noted. “They say we should have an informed conscience when we go to vote, but they never really take that next step and say, ‘Here’s who meets that criteria.’” “If you look at it from a purely legal perspective, the priest to bishop is still an employee-employer-type relationship, and that’s the employer telling the employee what they can or can’t do,” he explained, addressing bishops who si-

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lence priests from speaking out on politics. “We wouldn’t tolerate that anywhere else,” he added. “I don’t think a bishop has the right to tell a priest that they can’t come out and speak.”

President Trump’s executive order goes far in addressing inequities in the Johnson Amendment, which critics say is unconstitutional because it violates the First Amendment rights of faith-based charities. The **Johnson Amendment**, named after its sponsor, Lyndon B. Johnson, was passed in 1954 and amended the tax code by granting tax-exempt status to 501 (c) 3 nonprofits as long as they don’t participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.” It’s been used as a cudgel, however, to threaten and censor politically related speech from the pulpit, causing clergy to fear that any preaching condemning the Democratic Party, e.g., for its promotion of abortion, radical gender ideology or other anti-Catholic teachings could result in federal prosecution.

In fact, numerous bishops have placed gag orders on their priests not to speak out on political issues because of their fear of how the Johnson Amendment may be applied to their diocese.

But the Johnson Amendment has numerous critics. United States Sen. John Lankford of Oklahoma and Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana, for instance, have said that “this was a law written by politicians to protect politicians.” That’s because it unequally applies to faith-based charities while exempting other nonprofits. “A college professor can say anything to his or her class about any politician, but Pastors, Imams, Priests or Rabbis are prohibited in their official duties from speaking about the same politician,” they wrote in a 2017 op-ed. Lankford and Scalise introduced the Free Speech Fairness Act in their respective houses to remedy the unconstitutionality of the Johnson Amendment and “to prevent government intrusion and suppression of free speech by removing a restriction on speech that has existed since 1954.”

“The First Amendment right of free speech and right to practice any faith, or no faith, are foundational American values that must extend to everyone, whether they are a pastor, social worker, or any charity employee or volunteer,” said Lankford in 2019, when reintroducing the bill. “People who work for a nonprofit still have constitutional rights to assembly, free speech and free press.”

The Family Research Council has written, “The Johnson Amendment is an unconstitutional restraint on free speech, and is a tool the IRS uses to threaten and censor the First Amendment free speech rights of churches, charities, and their leaders.”

**THE FALL- WINTER - SPRING SCHEDULE:**

- October 18** MSGR. POPEK AWARD DINNER---Recipient: Bishop Thomas Paprocki-  
Postponed to 2021
- November 15** TO BE ANNOUNCED
- December 13** MSGR. POPEK BIRTHDAY/CHRISTMAS LUNCH----TENTATIVE
- January 17** TO BE ANNOUNCED
- February 21** AFTERNOON OF RECOLLECTION, by Fr. James Kubicki, S.J. (at Sacred Heart Church)
- March 21** TO BE ANNOUNCED
- April 18** TO BE ANNOUNCED
- May 16** TO BE ANNOUNCED
- September 19** TO BE ANNOUNCED



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*To Support, Defend and Advance the Efforts of the Teaching Church*

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This Newsletter is not published in  
June, July or August.

**December 13**

**Msgr. Popek Birthday/Christmas Lunch**

**“Open Flame Restaurant”**

**Tentative**