ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Nov. 3, 2026

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Today our nation goes to the polls. As you exercise your right to vote, I invite you to do so prayerfully, with a heart open to the Holy Spirit and grounded in the teachings of the Church.

When we participate in civic life, we have the opportunity to promote the common good in our communities and our nation. We are blessed to live in a society where we are free to vote, and to elect leaders that honor the faith we profess.

I know that, for many reasons, election seasons can be a source of anxiety. If you are feeling concerned today, please know that you are not alone, and that the Lord walks with you. Our peace does not depend on any result, nor on any human being. It rests in Christ Jesus, who remains with us always.

Today is also an opportunity to share his love. The way we speak to one another, in our homes, at the polling place and online, is a quiet witness to the faith we profess. Let us be gentle with family members and friends who see things differently and value those relationships far more than any political argument. Every person we encounter is a beloved child of God, and that is something each of us must remember when emotions run high.

As St. Gerard Majella said beautifully, “I see in my neighbor the person of Jesus Christ.” May this be our mindset today and in the days ahead, whatever the results may be.

I ask you to join me in prayer for the beautiful state of South Carolina, and our nation, for all who seek to serve in public office and for peace and unity among our neighbors. Let us entrust our country to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who always leads us to her Son. Remember, after the election, we will continue to be children of God.

Go out today, vote, and be an example of Christ's work in the world.

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"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (Phil 4:6-7).

In Christ's love,

Most Rev. Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS
Bishop of Charleston