



Knights of Columbus Council 9542

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

Washington, DC 20064

In Service to One, In Service to All

Brothers, I'm sure that I do not have to tell you that this coming week will be monumental in the history of our nation. On Tuesday, we choose the next President of the United States and various other elected officials. In an effort to keep partisan politics out of this chamber, I will not comment on either of the major candidates running for the highest office in our country. However, this topic is nonetheless important and something that should be discussed considering the fourth pillar of our Order is *Patriotism*. I encourage all of you, regardless of your political ideology, to exercise your right to vote. This is not a right that came at little or no cost. Throughout our country's history, there have been men and women who have died at the expense of protecting our democracy and the highly coveted rights that come with it. It wasn't until just a few decades ago that *all* American citizens were fully guaranteed the right to vote. Therefore, to not vote is to express an ingratitude for the sacrifice made by those who fought and continue to fight to secure this invaluable right.

Part of our mission as Knights of Columbus is to show our communities that we, as Catholics, support our nation and are ready to bear the cross not only of Catholic gentlemen, but also of American citizens. We support our men and women in uniform and express our gratitude for their service through various means. For example, a few Brother Knights from our council regularly donate their time at the Armed Forces Retirement Home up the road from our campus, and our fellow Knights at other college campuses participate in military service projects around DC, such as cleaning up wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery. On Tuesday, we have an opportunity to answer the call to be patriotic Knights by putting to use the right that these men and women fought to preserve.

However, it is important to recognize that this election, frustrating as it may be, is not limited to electing just the President of the United States. We will be voting for senators, representatives, governors, and state legislators who will make decisions that affect the issues we, as Knights, advocate for through our various works. These issues include, but are not limited to, defending life, guarding religious freedom, and protecting

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conscience. Our ballots are just one way that we can play an active role in our society as Catholics, which was the founding principle of Father McGivney when forming the Knights of Columbus.

Regardless of the results of Tuesday's election, there is no doubt that our country will be in great need of prayer. Inevitably, the voters whose candidate does not win will feel a sort of separation from the rest of the country, and it will be a big undertaking to work towards reunification after a long and heated season of debate and campaigning. Therefore, I ask the Worthy Grand Knight and Worthy Chaplain if we, as a council, may pray the [National Novena](#) provided by the Supreme Council at this time in preparation for Tuesday's election.

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