

► Sunday, October 19, 2008, Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 45:1, 4-6; Ps 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10; I Thes 1:1-5; Mt 22:15-21

Week #9: Main Theme: Marriage and the family should be promoted in civic affairs.

The Gospel points out that the Christian is not called to break away from civic society. Jesus did not teach his followers to be separatists. One thing that is due to Caesar is responsible engagement with the culture and with politics. A good Christian must be a good citizen. And in a culture of death, especially of legalized abortion, this is more urgent than ever. Do we bring the truth of human dignity and sexuality into our dealings with others? Do we support life and marriage by our public, cultural, and political activities? Do we evangelize the culture about God's law of life? This is especially the vocation of the laity. As we do this and meet resistance and ridicule, we should remember today's psalm: "All the gods of the nations are things of nought, but the Lord made the heavens."

**Bulletin: "Christians, redeeming the present time and distinguishing eternal realities from their changing expressions, should actively promote the values of marriage and the family, both by the examples of their own lives and by cooperation with other men of good will."
Second Vatican Council, *Gaudium et Spes*, #52**