

The First Section of the Second Article of the United States Constitution specifies the method for electing the President of the United States.

Despite what we will be subjected to during the next few months; the process is actually very simple.

(1) Each state gets to appoint electors. (2) The number of electors is the same as the number of representatives and senators in Congress. And, (3) the electors cannot be members of Congress or anyone holding office in the Federal government.

That's it.

Some minor things have changed on the Federal level. The president and vice-president used to be whoever got first and second place respectively in the election. If there was a tie, then House of Representatives would vote the tie-breaker.

And in 1800, there actually was a tie - and in the aftermath of that, we ended up with the 12th Amendment ... which changed the process to have the electors cast votes for both a president and a vice president.

Anything else is left up to the states. Caucuses or primaries, popular votes or legislative appointments - those things all vary by state. In fact, in the first Presidential election held in 1792, only 6 of the original 13 states held popular elections to appoint electors.

In today's Gospel, Jesus is speaking to His disciples at the Last Supper. This section of Saint John's Gospel follows the section we heard last week - the Vine and the Branches.

Near the end of today's Gospel passage, we hear Jesus say:

*"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you..."*

Listen to that again - hear it as the Voice of the Son of God speaking directly to you:

*"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you..."*

The Greek word in the original text of John's Gospel that is translated here as "chose" is *eklegomai* ... which became the Latin word *elegere* ... which is where we get the English word *elect*.

Think of it again with that twist:

*“It was not you who elected me, but I who elected you...”*

Or perhaps:

*“It was not you who voted for me, but I who voted for you...”*

Modern thinkers often find fault with the Church ... in that we don't do things democratically. But then, again, given all of the corruption and confusion ... the derision and disturbances ... that surrounds so simple a process (at least as described in the US Constitution) as the Presidential election ... I'm not so sure that I'd want to suffer through any additional chaos.

Yet, with the realization that it was Jesus who chose you ... Christ Jesus elected you ... God the Son ... voted ... for ... each ... and ... every ... one ... of ... us: *“to go and bear fruit...”* that is – to build up the Kingdom of God ... our perception of who we are as members of the Body of Christ - who we are within the Church ... should take on a certain level of seriousness that perhaps we don't always apply to ourselves.

With the underlying meaning of that one word in today's Gospel revealed – one could almost say that, in a sense, the Church is a democracy. But instead of us being the ones who are doing the choosing ... instead of us being the ones casting our votes ... instead of our opinions effecting the election – rather it is Our Lord Jesus Christ ... the Savior and the Redeemer ... who has cast His vote ... who has given voice to His choice ... for each and every one of us.

Perhaps once we take that in – and let it sink into us deeply ... maybe then we will realize the fullness of the promises we hear Jesus speaking of in the rest of today's passage from Saint John's Gospel.

Today as we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ – let us thank Him for choosing us ... despite our weaknesses and in spite of our flaws ... let us humbly ask Him to strengthen us ... through His mercy and His Grace ... that we might live out our calling at every moment of our lives ... as the chosen friends of so great a Redeemer ... Our Lord Jesus Christ.