

Nine months ago we ended what almost seemed to be a four-year run of political campaigning. And some would argue, that even after the elections, the candidates merely began their next round of campaigns.

We are currently entering an Episcopal interregnum – the period between the departure of one bishop and the appointment and arrival of his successor.

And in many offices at the diocese, you would think we were in the midst of a political campaign.

But the ways of man are not the ways of God.

Today is the feast of Saint Matthias. In the first reading, we hear about the selection of Matthias.

Yet, the sole qualification noted for the position is that he be someone who “accompanied us the whole time the Lord Jesus came and went among” them, and that his selection was so that he could become “a witness to [Jesus’] resurrection.”

And how is it that someone witnesses to Christ’s resurrection?

The Gospel of John presents a three-fold way.

- (1) Remain in God’s love
- (2) Keep God’s commandment, that is: Love one another
- (3) Receive the Joy of Christ

No politicking, no back-stabbing, no posturing, no mud-slinging.

The ways of the world are not the ways of God.

We may choose to reflect on our effectiveness as witnesses to Jesus’ resurrection, and in doing so see how well we embrace the process laid out by St. John in his Gospel. Do we remain in the Love of Christ ... the Love of God? How well do we love one another? Have we not only received the joy of Christ, but are we able to radiate it as well?

God calls some to be successors to the Apostles, but all of us are successors to His disciples, members of the Body of Christ, and adopted sons and daughters of God in Christ.

It is up to us in our daily lives to appropriately receive and engage the graces poured out on us in abundance; drawing closer to God in prayer and service; and truly demonstrating to a world hungry for Christ, what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ ... what it means to be a Christian. Let us resolve to go forth and witness to Jesus’ resurrection in the Love and the joy of God.