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CNS documentary service

Voting in Faith, Rebuilding in Hope

Bishop McElroy

"We must vote in faith and rebuild in hope to serve the nation that we love and the Gospel by which we are redeemed," Bishop Robert W. McElroy of San Diego said Oct. 13 in an online speech to St. Mary's College and the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. Bishop McElroy discussed the upcoming national election, noting that "for every voter, political choice is a mixture of satisfaction and regret. For the faith-filled Catholic voter the regret is greatly magnified." The bishop bemoaned the trend in this election cycle of Catholic candidates' faith being questioned due to one policy position. Bishop McElroy discussed three life issues people are considering in this election: abortion, climate change, and racism and other forms of exclu-

"We are called to be missionary disciples in a political culture that has lost its way in a moment of profound societal crisis."

sion. He noted that for the unborn, "the annihilation of their humanity in perception and in fact continues." Bishop McElroy said, "Like the issues of fighting poverty and addressing climate change, the issue of abortion in law and public policy is a realm where prudential judgment is essential and determinative. Thus, the assertion so frequently heard in many Catholic political conversations that the public policy dimensions of poverty and climate change are questions of prudential judgment, while the public policy dimensions of abortion and marriage are not is simply false." Bishop McElroy's talk follows.

We stand poised upon the most important national election of the past 50 years. Our country is consumed by a threatening pandemic that has killed more than 200,000 people, infected our highest levels of government and wreaked havoc upon our economic life.

Racial, ethnic and cultural divisions challenge our nation to reimagine and restructure the most fundamental elements of our identity as a people.

The fires raging in the West are a visible sign of the fact that we are destroying our planet.

The Supreme Court is engulfed in a bitterly partisan conflict that will influence the future of abortion law, health care, voting rights and protections for workers.

And for the first time since the Civil War,

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