



# USA



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## WEEKLY LETTER FROM MONSIGNOR KEN

One of the principles of our great country is to keep politics out of religion. At times, this can be a challenge, because the pulpit is also to preach the Gospel, to speak Truth and speak of values. That can be a difficult line to walk at times. However, the other side of this issue is that people want to come to Church to escape the pressures of their lives, to find encouragement and to find hope.

I bring this up because I believe this general principle that comes under the heading of “separation of Church and state” should be expanded. As we work to keep politics out of the pulpit, we see it creeping into other aspects of our lives. For some reason, many in sports and entertainment feel the need to make political statements.

Certainly, everyone has the right to believe as they wish and they have a right to promote it as much as they wish, on their own time. If we should keep politics out of the pulpit, shouldn't we also keep it off the field and off the stage? In the locker room, you can argue and discuss all you want about any issue you want, but once you walk out onto the field or the court, shouldn't you just play the game? The same is true for entertainment. Behind the curtain, you can believe and say whatever you want, but once the curtain rises why not just entertain?

The other side of this is the simple truth that we need a break. We go to games or shows or concerts to escape life and its problems. When politics is brought in, we become agitated or angry or excited or distracted, the exact opposite of why we attended in the first place! The bottom line, sometimes we just want to have fun!

***“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.” (John 14:27)***