

Today at Mass Father will read that some people wanted to trick Jesus. They wanted him to say something that would upset the politicians. But Jesus knew what they were trying to do. Here is what happened.

Some men came up to Jesus. They asked him, “Is it lawful to pay the Census Tax to Caesar or not”? This was a political question. Jesus knew he had to be careful about the way he answered. Jesus said, “Show me the coin that pays the Census Tax”. Jesus looked at the coin and saw that the image of Caesar was on the coin. Jesus said to them, “pay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” The men who asked this question were not expecting this answer so they walked away.

Even when Jesus was on this earth, people were discussing politics. They did not have televisions so they did not have to watch all the political ads that we see on TV. But Jesus is saying that it is important to pay taxes, to vote if you are old enough and to support politicians who work for the good of the people. He is also saying that we should honor God by attending church and putting money in the collection to support the church. The church needs money to help people who may have lost their job or had to move out of their house, but also to buy the items we need for Mass like bread and wine.

When you look out the windows when you are riding in the car, you see lots of signs in people's yards, or you may hear people talking about voting. This is an election year and all those over 18 who register, can vote. We know that you can not vote, but we want you to see how big this country is. You will see a map of the 50 states that make up this country. Ohio is marked with a star, but if you live in another state mark it with a checkmark (✓). You can color in the states you have visited, or those that you would like to visit.

Today is Mission Sunday. On this day we remember those people who teach others about Jesus by traveling to the states where there are few churches. Besides teaching them they also help them get a chance to go to the doctor and dentist. It is very important work.