

MINERS and CANDIDATES

Election time is almost upon us. Campaigns continue to rev-up their ads in the same negative fashion that they have been doing for some time now. It is very difficult to find out what a candidate stands for. What they tell us is how bad the other candidate is. Even when we send out surveys, candidates choose not to answer rather than reveal to us their position on a particular issue. Basically, - we are being told: "The other guy is worse than I am, so vote for me."

That appears to me to be unacceptable in a nation such as ours. We live in the United States of America, - a nation founded on some very solid and basic principles. Our Founding Fathers stood for something worthwhile and they were not afraid to admit it. Yet, we are about to choose leaders of government, - and we are told to choose, based on the lack of qualifications of the opponent and not on the qualifications of the individual candidate.

What is projected is not a desire for the common good of the nation; but, rather, a desire for personal victory. It seems to me that those are the very people who should not be elected to public office.

Perhaps, the best thing to do is to ignore everything that is being said on television. Most likely, most of it is not true or (at least) skewed.

Pardon the comparison, but consider the sharp contrast with the recent drama in Chile. Thirty-three miners, trapped for over two months half a mile down in the bowels of the earth were all rescued alive. This was due to the efforts of countless individuals working together (as individuals) for a common cause.

However, - it was also due to the miners themselves. Even during the first 17 days, before the miners knew whether or not they would be found, they were there for the good of each other. It was not each man for himself. Whatever they did to survive was for the common good of the whole group.

There was among them, as well, an acknowledgement of God being in charge. After they were found and before they could be rescued, the miners asked for and were sent supplies. Besides food and clothing, this included rosaries and items with which they built themselves a shrine. There was faith in God, as well as in each other.

That Faith was also evident a half mile above them. As the capsule carried the first rescuer down to the thirty-three trapped miners, President Sebastian Pinera of Chile closed his eyes and made the sign of the cross.

As a nation, we, too, may be finding ourselves at times as if we were trapped in the deep bowels of the earth, - without light and what seems as no escape. With all the problems and challenges that face this nation, so many of our politicians still do not appear to see the need of working together for the common good.

Perhaps, they should be miners.