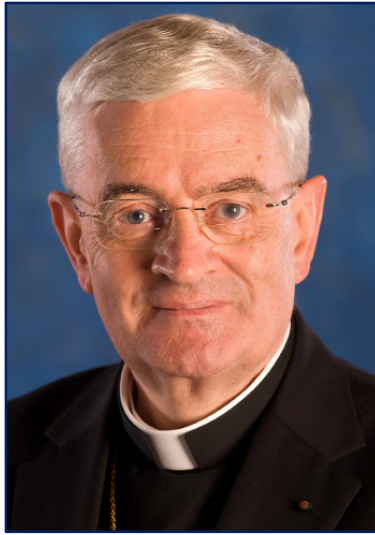


The voice which needs to be heard in the Victorian elections

Religious freedom and the preservation of our shared values



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OUR CIVILIZATION is based on values which have been transmitted through thousands of years of our faith traditions. The leadership of the major parties has endangered both these values and the freedom and integrity of religious belief which allows them to be preserved.

Upholding the value of life Traditional faith wants to protect life as far as possible. The Victorian Abortion law is the worst in the world. It forces doctors to comply with abortions for which their consciences can find no justification, such as for sex-selection. The law was brought in under Labor, which continues to support it. Although the Premier, then in opposition, opposed its excesses as “wrong” and “repugnant”, he has committed himself to preserve the excesses of this law.

Preserving the traditional family Traditional faith upholds the primacy of the traditional family and the union of man and woman. The “Safe Schools Coalition Program” in Victorian schools seeks to overturn this value by exposing schoolchildren to homosexual lifestyles at an early and impressionable stage in the formation of their identity. The Coalition supports this program in some schools. Labor wants to make it compulsory in every Government school. This is an attack on the freedom of parents to have children raised according to the values of their faith.

Upholding schools’ religious freedom Traditional faith needs the freedom to run religious schools that transmit faith and its values. The Labor party wants to reverse current legislation, which allows religious schools to choose staff whose belief and conduct model the school’s values. Labor wants to force religious schools to justify their selection of individual staff on religious grounds to a committee of secular bureaucrats. This attacks the freedom and integrity of religious institutions.

Guaranteeing spiritual literacy in education All children including those at Government Schools who come from religious homes (and 70% of all Australians identify with a religion), or who want to learn about faith, have the right to a religious education. The Review of the National Curriculum explicitly requires an attention to spirituality and values. While not opposing it, neither of the major parties has announced a commitment to fulfilment of this need.