

Texas Voters Ban the State from Prohibiting Religious Services



Texans voted overwhelmingly to ban the state from being able to prohibit or limit religious services, including those in churches and other places of worship.

They voted 63% TO 37%.

Some argued that this was an over reaction and that it could hamper the ability of the state or even a local government to shut down religious services.

Um. Yeah. That's what it's supposed to do.

But but but, they say, what about if there's a really super duper bad pandemic even worse than Covid? Then people will just have to make their own decisions about how to fulfill their religious obligations, won't they?

Here's what it comes down to. The people no longer trust politicians and bureaucrats to have access to that kind of power, especially over their faith lives.

Too many people suppose that regular folks can't make decisions for themselves and unless the government tells them what to do and where to go they will be lost. In fact, it seems to me the best way to get lost is to take directions from a politician.



Say, shouldn't all those folks who are always talking about separation of Church and state be happy about this? Or perhaps I misunderstood what they really meant.

Traditionalists flood Rome after pope's Latin Mass crackdown
By NICOLE WINFIELD October 29, 2021



ROME (AP) — Traditionalist Catholics descended on Rome on Friday for their annual pilgrimage, hoping to show the vibrancy of their community after Pope Francis issued a crackdown on the spread of the old Latin Mass that many took as an attack on them and the ancient rite.

An evening vespers service at Rome's Pantheon basilica, the first event of the three-day pilgrimage, was so full that ushers had to add two rows of chairs to accommodate the faithful. Many young families, couples and priests filled the pews, hailing from the U.S., France, Spain and beyond.

One of the Vatican's "ceremoniere," or official priests, Monsignor Marco Agostini, celebrated the evening service, which featured Latin chants, incense and brocaded vestments with the priests facing the altar rather than the pews. Many women wore lace veils, or mantillas. Many priests eschewed face masks.

"We want to demonstrate our attachment to the Successor of St. Peter and that we are in the heart of the church," said Pedro d'Aquino, who travelled from Brooklyn, New York, for the pilgrimage. "We're not interested in ideology or polemics

Francis in July reimposed restrictions on celebrating the old Latin Mass that Pope Benedict XVI had relaxed in 2007. Francis said he was reversing his predecessor because Benedict's reform

had become a source of division in the church and been exploited by Catholics opposed to the Second Vatican Council, the 1960s meetings that modernized the church and its liturgy.

The move riled Francis' conservative critics, many of whom have gone so far to accuse him of heresy and watering down Catholic doctrine with his focus on the environment, social justice and migrants.

Young Catholics reclaim All Hallows Eve

By

[Debbie Cramsie](#)

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November 3, 2021



Azelie was St Rose of Lima while her brother Joseph was St Maximilian Kolbe for All Saints Day at St Michael the Archangel, Belfield. Photo: Giovanni Portelli

Sydney Catholics Azelie and Joseph Harb reclaimed Halloween this year and it was no trick and all treat!

The tiny revellers were among growing numbers of families celebrating in a way both faithful and festive by ditching costumes of ghouls and goblins in favour of their favourite Saints.

As the night before All Saints' Day followed by All Souls' Day, it's a festival with deeply religious roots and today being resurrected as a time of remembering Saints and departed souls, not just an opportunity to dress up, knock on neighbours' doors and collect lollies.

Long-time parishioner of Belfield's St Michael the Archangel Parish, Jessica Harb, said both of her young children had really enjoyed selecting their favourite Saints – Rita and Maximilian Kolbe – to emulate and learn about.

For the past few weeks we have sat down and gone through the Saints and at just three and four years old they took a real interest in selecting their favourite, learning about them and finally dressing up as them," she said.

"You really are never too young to learn, and both of them have not stopped talking about their Saint since.

“I must say, as parents we are against the demonic, pagan characters associated with Halloween and thought this would be a beautiful way to start teaching them about the real reason behind it all.

“It’s a fantastic way to reclaim Halloween, so many parents embraced the idea of dressing their kids up as Saints, which I think will grow in popularity every year.”