

# ***PERSONALLY SPEAKING***

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## **VOTE FOR HILLARY AND YOU GET BILL**

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Supporters and critics alike for months have been claiming that a vote for Hillary is a vote to continue the programs and policies of President Obama. What follows confirms that Hillary and Barack indeed are on the same page regarding religion, health care, the reproductive rights of women, gun control, and immigration.

*“You go into these small towns in Pennsylvania and, like a lot of small towns in the Midwest, the jobs have been gone now for 25 years and nothing’s replaced them... it’s not surprising then they get bitter, they cling to guns or religion or antipathy toward people who are not like them or anti-immigrant sentiment or anti-trade sentiment as a way to explain their frustrations.” Barack Obama, April 6, 2008.*

*“Far too many women are denied access to reproductive health care and safe childbirth, and laws don’t count for much if they are not enforced. Rights have to exist in practice – not just on paper. Laws have to be backed up with resources and political will. And deep-seated cultural codes, religious beliefs and structural biases have to be changed.” Hillary Clinton, April 23, 2015.*

Consider how Obama and Clinton have been pressuring the Little Sisters of the Poor who argue that they cannot accept in good conscience the mandate in Obamacare requiring employers to provide health care benefits including contraception and abortion.

Clinton and Obama are on the same page regarding immigration though Clinton seems to hold a position further left than Obama. The two are in agreement that health care should be available to everyone and have expressed a clear preference for universal health care over the Affordable Care Act. Both support restrictions on the Second Amendment right to own guns.

However, there is more to be said about this matter. Recently it came to light that John Podesta, a friend and adviser to Hillary, in effect condemned Catholic social thought on

subsidiarity, which is an essential foundation of social order, because *“no one knows what the hell they are talking about.”* By setting up a system in which private health insurers play a significant role in access to health care, Obamacare itself is grounded in subsidiarity. As President Lincoln stated simply and plainly, *“the government should do for the people what the people are unable to do for themselves.”*

Joseph Becker S.J. supplies the justification for subsidiarity.

*...rulers are not always able to do what is best for their subjects; even when they are able, they are not always willing, the members may prefer to do it for themselves, for good government is not a substitute for self government when the governed are persons ... because the units of society are persons, that is, beings possessed of intellect and free will.*

As with subsidiarity, Podesta condemns Thomistic thought *“because no one knows what the hell they’re talking about.”* In sharp contrast, James Ross, professor of philosophy at the University of Pennsylvania, identifies Thomas’s Summa Theologica as *“one of the classics of the history of philosophy and one of the most influential works of Western literature.”* Mary Carruthers, professor of English at New York University, commented at length on Einstein and Thomas *“whom their contemporaries universally regarded to be remarkable men of remarkable genius.”* If Podesta is right in casting aside Thomas *“because no one knows what the hell they’re talking about”* would he cast aside Einstein for the very same reason?

By rejecting subsidiarity, Hillary is able to defend and support the many policies and programs of the Obama administration because both agree that the Democratic party should be taken further to the left to strengthen the role of government in human affairs. However, the ties that bind husband and wife are stronger than the ties that bind a person to a political party. Whatever their failures in keeping their marriage vows, Bill and Hillary single-mindedly pursue public office because winning the White House opens the door to the greatest source of power on earth.

Becker articulates the reason that power corrupts: *“...once a group has established its rulers, those rulers gradually substitute their own particular good for the general good of the group as the norm of group action.”*

Bill Clinton over the years has used his charm to persuade the public that his norm of action has always been the common good of all Americans. Lacking his charm, Hillary needs him to smooth the edges whenever she replaces the common good with her own particular good. In electing Hillary American voters may in effect see her presidency as Obama’s third term. Quite to the contrary, her presidency amounts to a third term for Bill.

**Urging impeachment for Bill Clinton in 1998 Peggy Noonan writing in the Wall Street Journal characterized him as “having no respect for his office, for his country, and for its people.” Writing in the WSJ nine years later Noonan offered the following comments on Hillary.**

*“... as a matter of political temperament and habit of mind, she is neither patient, high minded nor forbearing.”*

*“Her real self is a person who wants to run things, to assert authority, to create systems and have people conform to them.”*

*“...she has history that lends itself to the kind of doubts that end in fearfulness. It is an unease and dismay based not on gender stereotypes but on personal history.”*

**Like it or not, a vote for hard-hitting Hillary gets you smooth-talking Bill. The two need each other to once again take control of the White House which provides countless opportunities to pursue their own particular good.**

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