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2022 AUSCP

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For Wisdom Wednesday

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What Does the Lord Require? Doing Good and Seeking Justice in Kentucky 2023

Kentucky Council of Churches Annual Assembly

Luke 12 Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. ² **There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.** ³ **What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.**

There is a certain pharisaical yeast of which Kentuckians should be very aware! If I were a member of the majority party of the Kentucky legislature, I would be more than a bit concerned about secrets being disclosed, backroom deals coming to light and legislative texts that are magically altered between the time they are presented to the public and when they are voted on to become law. Now in my position as a religious leader, as a Catholic bishop, I certainly cannot tell people how to vote and I cannot promote a partisan agenda for political purposes. But I am also committed to telling the truth and sometimes we have to call them as we see them. If a different party had a super majority in both houses of the legislature, I would likely be calling them out on something. But with our eyes and ears open—critical eyes and discerning ears—I think it is incumbent upon people of faith to denounce what goes on in the Commonwealth that is not in promotion of the common good.

When various national publications rank the Commonwealth of Kentucky 45th among the states when it comes to our health and 39th in the country over all, when various polls rank Kentucky as high as 5th in the nation for poverty, wouldn't you think that lawmakers would be concerned with something more beneficial than banning books, or creating more secrecy about the funding of public agencies? Do you think that the pronouns a student chooses for themselves is the priority to get under control or that placing limits on the union dues collected is the best way to improve the quality of life for workers? As we witness the ongoing destruction of the natural beauty that everyone would agree is especially abundant in Kentucky, is it really in the best interest of Kentuckians to add more bureaucracy to the process of retiring coal-fired

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