

# What religious voter looks for

**T**HE presidential campaign has not been the most enlightening. Yet one thing we have been spared is the harangue of religious radicals.

The most fortunate thing about this election is that the candidate fundamentalist Pat Robertson died early.

We do not want a battle between the religious groups in America. We do not want a religious faction fighting to take over America and make it in their own image. I hope that we will keep the churches and other religious groups non-partisan.

**THERE ARE** concerns which religious people should have. We should be concerned that the truth of the candidate's life and positions be revealed. We should be quick to condemn the sick selling of candidates which becomes simply a sham. Hopefully, the American people will see when they are being fooled.

A week ago a wonderful feature was broadcast on PBS television. Called "Campaign: The Choice," the

two-hour program traced the lives of George Bush and Michael Dukakis through their parents' story, birth, education and major turning points.

The program illuminated more than did who these men are. Religious people should seek for the truth, not simply for that with which they can agree.

**WE ALSO** must look at mercy and justice. A world and a society will only improve when leaders exhibit these qualities.

Americans want strong leaders. This is not a quality which must be in conflict with mercy and justice.

Religious people do not want or need people who will be called "Rambo IV" by the world. We cannot do this as a rich country in a sea of poor people.

We also need to look to the future when we choose our candidates. Religious people have a high stake in the future of the world. MIT professor Lincoln Bloomfield has written one of the most important essays with the title, "Twilight of Autarchy." Changes are moving across the



moral perspectives

Rev. David Strong

globe which are moving all nations to a new kind of dependence.

The strongest governments can no longer control things once thought to be basic — the freedom to make war, the value of their currency, the ability to stop foreign influences, such as drugs and AIDS. Even the United States can hardly control the flow of illegal immigrants into the country.

These religious groups and people who feel threatened by such changes turn to terrorism and fundamentalism. In one sense, they attempt to save the truths which they hold, their roots and identity.

Bloomfield believes that the greatest mutual dependence will develop between the two super powers, America and Russia. They in turn will be challenged by the next super powers Japan and a united Europe. Yet all will be forced to recognize our dependence on others.

**BENEATH THE** surface, the plates are shifting. What will religious people have to say about these changes which may well be God directed?

Unity, dependence, justice, mercy and, finally, love of our neighbor — these are qualities of religious truth. I believe that God seeks to form one world community, of diversity and unity.

We need to be involved in ways which are only becoming clear. Hopefully, this will not involve partisan, political harangue.

The Rev. David Strong is pastor at St. Matthew United Methodist Church in Livonia.

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Texas Instruments is contributing \$100,000 to the Oakland University School of Business Administration in honor of retiring TI general director Paul F. Lorenz of Bloomfield Hills.

OU business dean Ronald M. Horwitz said the gift creates the Paul F. Lorenz/Texas Instruments academic excellence awards. They will be given annually to outstanding undergraduate and graduate students.

The award will be presented at a Nov. 3 dinner in Meadow Brook Hall. TI policy is to donate \$100,000 in honor of a retiring director to that director's college or university of choice.

Horwitz said the academic excellence fund will be used for a full-tuition scholarship for an undergraduate business major who has completed his or her junior year with the highest grade point average within the school and to fund three outstanding student awards — two for

the top two undergraduate students in the SBA and one for the outstanding MBA student. All three will be chosen on the basis of cumulative grade point average.

Lorenz is a retired Ford Motor Co. executive vice president and an adjunct professor in the School of Business Administration. He and his wife, Harriet, are longtime friends of the university and members of the President's Club.

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