

## **WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CONSERVATIVE!**

Recently there has been a lot of publicity about the so called moral/religious *conservative* style of the now NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet.

What I would like to comment on is how the word *conservative* is so often misunderstood. Anyone who holds to any view in life on a subject or an event does so as a result of actually acquiring and then conserving knowledge on the subject or event. For example, someone who is a lawyer would need to gain some knowledge of the law and legal processes before they would be qualified to speak about this subject. Whether what they say about this aspect of law is *left wing* or *right wing* or *conservative* or *liberal* is a subjective view by the person passing a judgement on them. The same thing happens often in politics, sport and even church and religion and this labelling can often define someone very unfairly.

It is a good and a healthy thing that people as a result of acquiring more knowledge and life experience naturally expand their understanding and knowledge on a subject or event. To denounce someone as being definitively *conservative* or *liberal* based on their own limited knowledge of that person is I believe too often do them a disservice.

There is an old saying; *“that if people marry themselves to the spirit of one age, they will often become a widow in the next age.”* Fulton J Sheen (1895-1979) *Fr Martin R Maunsell*