What are we learning from the election results?

by Dean Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm

(1) It is a much closer race than any side expected or wanted. We are a deeply polarized country; some say that is not a good thing.

(2) We all are taking a dose of patience and waiting for all votes to be counted. I know this is a lot to ask; in a normal election year, we would have had the results weeks or months ago. But this is an atypical election year.

(3) If you're a Connecticut Republican, your vote counted. If you're a Chicago Democrat, your vote counted. If you're a Trump supporter in New Hampshire or Biden supporter in Michigan, your vote counted. Regardless of who you voted for, your vote was counted, which is what is fair and just about democracy. (Regardless of who you voted for).

(4) Let me say this again: this is a very close race. This means we all have friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, who voted differently than we did. We all need to do our best to respect that difference, be tolerant and constructive, build on it to become more agreeable going forward.

(5) Yet, we also recognize that this is not a normal election year. Trump and Biden have been embroiled in legal warfare over the vote count in critical states. The Trump campaign is contesting the results in several states and demanding recounts. I urge the courts to settle these disputes quickly, and I urge the media to respect the outcomes of these recounts.

(6) Turnout was high in the 2020 election, a record for a US presidential election. Yet, it creates anxiety. Yet, it is our democracy at work.

What are we learning from the election results? Is anyone listening?