



A Letter to Catholics in Wisconsin on Faithful Citizenship

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As Pope Benedict has said, “The Church is not a political power, it’s not a party, but it’s a moral power.” This moral power comes to us through Christ and the lived experience of the faithful over the centuries.

In the face of the many difficulties confronting our nation and our world today, we invite Catholics to steep themselves in this rich moral tradition by studying the Church’s social teaching.

As a first step, we urge you to become familiar with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ statement, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States* (2007/2011). This statement discusses the principles of Catholic social teaching and their application to the political sphere. The Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC) offers a series of four bulletin inserts based on *Faithful Citizenship*. These and other resources are posted on the WCC website, www.wisconsinatholic.org.

As you take this message to heart, please remember that we uphold our Catholic values not only by what we say, but how we say it. Thus we urge all faithful citizens to model civility.

So many of the political, social, and economic challenges we face today require cooperation and shared responsibility. They require thoughtful and respectful dialogue, especially with people with whom we disagree. Disagreements will always exist, but a measure of our character is how we pursue justice and peace in spite of our differences. For the good of our nation and our Church, let us recommit ourselves to studying the Church’s teaching and applying it in a truthful, responsible, and civil manner.

We thank you for reading this and for cultivating hope and love.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Jerome E. Listecki
Archbishop of Milwaukee

The Most Reverend David L. Ricken
Bishop of Green Bay

The Most Reverend Robert C. Morlino
Bishop of Madison

The Most Reverend William P. Callahan
Bishop of La Crosse

The Most Reverend Peter F. Christensen
Bishop of Superior

July 2012