

WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BISHOPS SHARE RESOURCES ON FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP

The Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC), the public policy voice of Wisconsin's bishops, is distributing a series of resources to help Catholics reflect on their duties as faithful citizens.

The series has seven parts:

1. Letter from the Bishops / Overview of Catholic Social Teaching
2. Forming Consciences
3. Life & Dignity of the Human Person / Peace & Non-Violence
4. Religious Liberty / Immigration Reform
5. Marriage & Family / Poverty & Economic Justice
6. Candidate Questions
7. WCC Guidelines for Church Involvement in Electoral Politics

The series is designed for parish bulletins, but it can also be reproduced on a parish website or as a series of posters.

John Huebscher, Executive Director of the WCC, explained that the bishops are “modeling the Catholic duty to engage in public life in an informed, consistent, and respectful manner.”

The bishops invite Catholics to read or re-read the U.S. bishops 2011 statement, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States* (www.faithfulcitizenship.org), upon which this WCC series is based.

The WCC series also draws on the writings of Pope Francis, who has affirmed the Church's role in public policy debates: “The Church's pastors, taking into account the contributions of the different sciences, have the right to offer opinions on all that affects people's lives, since the task of evangelization implies and demands the integral promotion of each human being. ... An authentic faith – which is never comfortable or completely personal – always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it.”

The series concludes with questions that Catholics can pose to candidates and guidelines that clarify what Church activities and efforts are appropriate during a political campaign.

At the close of their letter, the bishops write: “Whatever our circumstances are, in everything we do, let us first look to Christ. Let us enter the public square with a spirit of humility and with

love for our fellow human beings, even and especially when we disagree with them. Though everything we do is incomplete, with God's grace we are planting His seeds and building His kingdom."

These WCC resources are provided to parishes through the diocesan offices responsible for respect life and social concerns. The materials are also available on the WCC website at www.wisconsinatholic.org.

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