



WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BISHOPS PROVIDE RESOURCES AND PROMOTE FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP IN PUBLIC POLICY AND ELECTIONS

The Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC), the public policy voice of Wisconsin's bishops, is sharing resources to help Catholics engage as faithful citizens in elections, public policy, and civic life in advance of the 2026 elections.

In a letter to all Wisconsin Catholics, the bishops write: "Every two years, ahead of the elections, we invite you to consider what it means to be a citizen who is faithful to Christ. This year, moved by the election of the first American pope, we wish to highlight Pope Leo XIV's [*Address to Members of the Diplomatic Corps Accredited to the Holy See*](#) (January 9, 2026). Inspired by St. Augustine's City of God, Pope Leo's address brings to the fore global issues that are especially relevant to our social and political landscape in the United States."

Pope Leo calls on everyone to protect human life and dignity, religious freedom, and human rights. He stresses that "The primary objective must remain the protection of every unborn child and the effective and concrete support of every woman so that she is able to welcome life."

Pope Leo acknowledges that Christians sometimes face restriction or discrimination when they proclaim the truths of the Gospel and "defend the dignity of the weakest, the unborn, refugees and migrants, or promote the family." The bishops also point to his warning "against the dilution of human rights which 'occurs when each right becomes self-referential, and especially when it becomes disconnected from reality, nature, and truth.'"

In the face of increased political polarization, it can be tempting to become discouraged and detached. However, the bishops urge Catholics to "pray, form your conscience, vote, and remain engaged in civic life."

As in years past, the WCC resources are based on the U.S. Bishops' statement, [*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States*](#). Resources include the bishops' letter with an overview of Catholic Social Teaching, bulletin inserts on *Our Call as Catholic Citizens* and voter information, and a website with more resources on faithful citizenship. Parishes are invited to share the resources in bulletins and digital communications.

All resources can be found at wisconsincatholic.org/fc.

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