



WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

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 two series of resources to help Catholics reflect on their duties as faithful citizens. Catholics are encouraged to utilize these resources as they navigate the election process and fulfill their responsibilities as voters.

Five-part series:

1. Letter from the Wisconsin Catholic Bishops/Overview of Catholic Social Teaching
2. Forming Consciences
3. Life & Dignity of the Human Person/Poverty & Economic Justice
4. Religious Liberty/Immigration & Solidarity
5. Marriage & Family/Care for Creation

Three-part series:

1. Letter from the Wisconsin Catholic Bishops/Overview of Catholic Social Teaching
2. *A Better Kind of Politics: Civilize It "Examination of Conscience"* from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)
3. Select quotes from the WCC's five-part series

Additional resources:

1. Candidate Questions & Wisconsin Voter Information
2. WCC Guidelines for Church Involvement in Electoral Politics

Each series opens with a letter from the bishops of Wisconsin, which stresses the importance of being faithful citizens in order to protect human life and dignity and advance the common good:

"The recent *Dobbs* decision demonstrates that faithful and determined citizens and lawmakers can protect innocent lives and correct injustice. Nevertheless, now that abortion laws are a state matter, we must remain vigilant to ensure that unborn children can be carried safely to term and mothers can access the resources they need to thrive."

The Church has a system for finding solutions to the challenges that beset our age. This system involves applying the principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST), which are "the fruit of over 2,000 years of observation and reflection on the part of the Church. No other institution today, religious or secular, has developed a body of social principles that is so broad and deep." The bishops invite the faithful to learn more about CST because it is also "essential to help form our consciences."

While exercising our right to vote is vital, Catholics must also ensure that others have the same opportunity. The bishops emphasize that “protecting voting rights is a moral imperative” and that Congress should ensure that “legal and other hurdles do not obstruct any eligible Americans from exercising their right to vote in form or effect.”

The bishops conclude by stating that “Catholics must take an active role in standing up for the voiceless and the marginalized, in protecting freedom of religion and conscience, in countering violence with peacemaking, in opposing racism with love, and in resisting extremism of all kinds with reason, compassion, and true tolerance.”

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* (2019) (faithfulcitizenship.org). While the resources are designed as inserts for parish bulletins, they can also be reproduced on posters or shared on parish websites. Parishes may obtain electronic copies through the diocesan offices responsible for respect life and social concerns or by downloading them from the WCC website at wisconsincatholic.org.

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