

The Church calls for a different type of political engagement: one shaped by the moral convictions of well-formed consciences and focused on the dignity of every human being, the pursuit of the common good, and the protection of the weak and vulnerable. The Catholic call to faithful citizenship affirms the importance of political participation and insists that public service is a worthy vocation.



More resources available at
www.faithfulcitizenship.org

For more information or to bring a Faithful Citizenship workshop to your parish, contact:
Diocese of Orlando
Office of Advocacy and Justice
1819 N Semoran Boulevard
Orlando, Florida 32807
407 658-1818 x 2086
advocacyjustice@orlandodiocese.org
www.advocacyjustice.org

Last Update: 5/19/15



Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship

A Call to Political
Responsibility from
the Catholic Bishops of
the United States

"In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation."

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship

USCCB 11/07

“ The Church’s obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith, a part of the mission given to us by Jesus Christ.

As people of both faith and reason, Catholics are called to bring truth to political life and to practice Christ’s commandment to “love one another” (Jn 13:34).

We are called to bring together our principles and our political choices, our values and our votes, to help build a better world.

At times Catholics may choose different ways to respond to social problems, but we cannot differ on our obligation to protect human life and dignity and help build through moral means a more just and peaceful world.

A consistent ethic of life should guide all Catholic engagement in political life...It anchors Catholic commitment to defend human life and other human rights, from conception until natural death, in the fundamental obligation to respect the dignity of every human being as a child of God.

Defending human life, building peace, combating poverty and despair, and protecting freedom and human rights are not only moral imperatives—they are wise national priorities that will make our nation and world safer.

Participation in political life in light of fundamental moral principles is an essential duty for every Catholic and all people of good will.

*Quotations are from: *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*
USCCB 11/07

How we organize our society—in economics and politics, in law and policy—directly affects the common good and the capacity of individuals to develop their full potential. Every person and association has a right and a duty to participate actively in shaping society and to promote the well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers, wherever they may be.

...themes from Catholic social teaching provide a moral framework that does not easily fit ideologies of “right”, or “left”, “liberal” or “conservative,” or the platform of any political party. They are not partisan or sectarian, but reflect fundamental ethical principles that are common to all people.

”