

Called to...



Jesus called us to “love one another.” Our Lord’s example and words demand care for the “least of these from each of us. Yet they also require action on a broader scale. Faithful citizenship is about more than elections. It requires ongoing participation in the continuing political and legislative process.

A Catholic moral framework does not easily fit the ideologies of “right” or “left,” nor the platforms of any party. Our values are often not “politically correct.” Believers are called to be a community of conscience within the larger society and to test public life by the values of Scripture and the principles of Catholic social teaching. Our responsibility is to measure all candidates, policies, parties, and platforms by how they protect or undermine the life, dignity, and rights of the human person, whether they protect the poor and vulnerable and advance the common good.

Today’s democratic societies . . . call for new and fuller forms of participation in public life by Christian and non-Christian citizens alike. Indeed, all can contribute, by voting in elections for lawmakers and government officials, and in other ways as well, to the development of political solutions and legislative choices which, in their opinion, will benefit the common good.

--Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith,
*Doctrinal Note on Some Questions Regarding
the Participation of Catholics in Political Life*, no. 1

For additional resources contact the Catholic Commission @ 330-535-2787 www.catholic-action.org

For Families:

- Have a family night on “citizenship” to discuss a few issues from the Bishops’ statement that mean a great deal to you
- Read and discuss as a family good children’s books that involve a few issues of most concern to your family

For Youth:

- For youth groups, pick a service project related to an election issue; then discuss how they might vote, if they were of age
- For younger children, conduct an art/poster contest, then display the artwork the Sunday before the elections
- For schools, have students write letters to legislators for a school Mass “Offering of Letters” collection or procession