

A letter from our Pastor...

St Raymond De Penafort
"Welcome. Love. Serve."
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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

As we approach the national election this November, I want to encourage all of you to take seriously our responsibility as Catholic Christians to participate in our voting process. No matter your political views, we are called to be respectful of the legitimate political processes of our society and to witness to Christ as informed citizens.

It is not the role of the clergy to advise people how to vote. Voting is a personal decision that should be made prayerfully. Any vote must be cast based on a properly formed conscience, which requires a sincere effort to think through the values that are at stake in our decisions.

In order to help with this process, the following are some highlights from the document *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Let us make the prayer of the bishops our own as we prepare to participate in the upcoming election on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

Merciful Father,
Thank you for inviting each of us to join in your work
of building the kingdom of love, justice, and peace.

Draw us close to you in prayer
as we discern your call in our families and communities.
Send us forth to encounter all whom you love:
those not yet born, those in poverty, those in need of welcome.

Inspire us to respond to the call to faithful citizenship,
during election season and beyond.
Help us to imitate your charity and compassion
and to serve as models of loving dialogue.

Teach us to treat others with respect, even when we disagree,
and seek to share your love and mercy.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen

Peace Be With You,



Fr. Scott Hebden, Pastor

HIGHLIGHTS FROM UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS,
FORMING CONSCIENCES FOR FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP

The central value in all moral decisions is the dignity of the human person.

What faith teaches about the dignity of the human person, about the sacredness of every human life, and about humanity's strengths and weaknesses helps us see more clearly the same truths that also come to us through the gift of human reason. At the center of these truths is respect for the dignity of every person. This is the core of Catholic moral and social teaching. Because we are people of both faith and reason, it is appropriate and necessary for us to bring this essential truth about human life and dignity to the public square. We are called to practice Christ's commandment to "love one another" (John 13:34). We are also called to promote the well-being of all, to share our blessings with those most in need, to defend marriage, and to protect the lives and dignity of all, especially the weak, the vulnerable, the voiceless. (10)

Catholic Christians are called to participate in the political life of their nation and community.

The Catholic call to faithful citizenship affirms the importance of political participation and insists that public service is a worthy vocation. As citizens, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to a political party or interest group. When necessary, our participation should help transform the party to which we belong; we should not let the party transform us in such a way that we neglect or deny fundamental moral truths or approve intrinsically evil acts. We are called to bring together our principles and our political choices, our values and our votes, to help build a civilization of truth. and love. (14)

Pope Benedict XVI, in his reflection on the Eucharist as "the sacrament of charity," challenged all of us to adopt what he calls "a Eucharistic form of life." This means that the redeeming love we encounter in the Eucharist should shape our thoughts, our words, and our decisions, including those that pertain to the social order....Worship pleasing to God can never be a purely private matter, without consequences for our relationships with others: it demands a public witness to our faith. (38)

Voting in good conscience means making every effort to avoid supporting moral evil.

Catholics often face difficult choices about how to vote. This is why it is so important to vote according to a well-formed conscience that perceives the proper relationship among moral goods. A Catholic cannot vote for a candidate who favors a policy promoting an intrinsically evil act, such as abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, deliberately subjecting workers or the poor to subhuman living conditions, redefining marriage in ways that violate its essential meaning, or racist behavior, if the voter's intent is to support that position. (34)

Voters need to keep all moral issues in balance when making a decision, not just focus on one issue at the expense of others.

A voter should not use a candidate's opposition to an intrinsic evil to justify indifference or inattentiveness to other important moral issues involving human life and dignity. (34)

Each voter should consider which candidate will support the Christian moral vision in the widest possible way. This may involve a choice between voting for a candidate who supports a particular issue and a candidate who will support the greater moral good.

The right to life implies and is linked to other human rights - to the basic goods that every human person needs to live and thrive. All the life issues are connected, for erosion of respect for the life of any individual or group in society necessarily diminishes respect for all life. The moral imperative to respond to the needs of our neighbors—basic needs such as food, shelter, health care, education, and meaningful work—is universally binding on our consciences and may be legitimately fulfilled by a variety of means. Catholics must seek the best ways to respond to these needs. (25)

There may be times when a Catholic who rejects a candidate's unacceptable position even on policies promoting an intrinsically evil act may reasonably decide to vote for that candidate for other morally grave reasons. Voting in this way would be permissible only for truly grave moral reasons, not to advance narrow interests or partisan preferences. (35)

<https://www.usccb.org/offices/justice-peace-human-development/forming-consciences-faithful-citizenship>

Do you still need to register to vote?



SEPTEMBER 22ND IS NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY!

National Voter Registration Day is a nonpartisan civic holiday.
In-person voter registration will be on Tuesday, September 22nd

3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Outside the Mount Prospect Public Library
10 S. Emerson in Mount Prospect.**

PLEASE WEAR A MASK AND OBSERVE SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES.

The League of Women Voters will be available to assist community members in registering to vote online via iPads provided by the League. Community members need an Illinois driver's license or state id and the last 4 digits of their social security number to complete registration online. The League will also have deputy voter registrars available to register voters using paper forms. Community members need to bring two forms of identification, one of which has their current address. Neither of these forms of identification need to have a photo on it.

For more information or to register to vote on-line visit:

<https://elections.il.gov/> OR <https://nationalvoterregistrationday.org/>