

The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship

A Well-Formed Conscience The Church equips its members to address political questions by helping them develop well-formed consciences. “Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act. . . . [Every person] is obliged to follow faithfully what he [or she] knows to be just and right” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1778).

We Catholics have a lifelong obligation to form our consciences in accord with human reason, enlightened by the teaching of Christ as it comes to us through the Church.

The Virtue of Prudence The Church also encourages Catholics to develop the virtue of prudence, which enables us “to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1806).

Prudence shapes and informs our ability to deliberate over available alternatives, to determine what is most fitting to a specific context, and to act. Prudence must be accompanied by courage, which calls us to act. As Catholics seek to advance the common good, we must carefully discern which public policies are morally sound. 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.

Making Moral Choices

THE BISHOPS DO *NOT* TELL CATHOLICS HOW TO VOTE!

The responsibility to make political choices rests with each person and his or her properly formed conscience, aided by prudence.

This exercise of conscience begins with always opposing policies that violate human life or weaken its protection.

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In this presidential election year, the parish encourages all eligible voters to exercise the right to vote!

- No political literature is to be displayed in the church or any of the parish facilities
- No literature is to be distributed on church property
- no signs (such as lawn signs) are to be erected.

The parking lot is private, not public, property and the parish prohibits the distribution of literature, political or otherwise, on windshields or at the ingress / egress points of the parking lots.

Voter Guides and Election literature created or approved by the archdiocese will be displayed, distributed or otherwise made available at the discretion of the Parish Leadership Team

