

The Catholic Bishops' Call to Faithful Citizenship:

Highlights (Bulletin 3 of 4)

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FORMING CONSCIENCES FOR FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP: A CALL TO POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY FROM THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF THE UNITED STATES can be found in its entirety along with other documents and readings by going to

<http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org/>

“Building a World of Respect for Human Life and Dignity”

“The Catholic approach to faithful citizenship,” the bishops advise, “rests on moral principles found in Scripture and Catholic moral and social teaching as well as in the hearts of all people of good will.”

The bishops present seven themes that “provide a moral framework for decisions in public life:”

The Right to Life and the Dignity of the Human Person. Direct assaults on human life are singularly immoral: these include abortion, torture, unjust war, the death penalty, and genocide. But hunger, poverty and racism also threaten human life.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation. “The family...is a sanctuary for the creation and nurturing of children.” Furthermore, “how we organize society – in economics and politics, in law and policy – directly affects the common good.”

Rights and Responsibilities. “Every human being has a right to life...and a right to access those things required for human decency—food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing, freedom of religion and family life.”



“We bishops vigorously repeat our call for a **renewed kind of politics:**

Focused more on moral principles than on the latest poll

Focused more on the needs of the weak than on benefits for the strong

Focused more on the pursuit of the common good than on the demands of narrow interests.”

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable. In the Scripture story of the Last Judgment (Mt. 25:31-46) Jesus sets the ultimate test: “our response to the ‘least among us’.” This “includes all who are marginalized in our nation and beyond.”

Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers. “The economy should serve people, not the other way around.” Employers must provide just wages and benefits to workers, who, in turn, must put in a day’s work for a day’s wages.

Solidarity. “We are [all] a human family...We are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers.” The conflict and violence around the world clash with “the Gospel’s invitation to be peacemakers.”

UIW MISSION COMMITTEE