

## Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship

### NOTE TO PASTORS AND PRIESTS

With national, state, and local election just around the corner, Catholics must decide for whom they will cast their ballots.

Since 1976 the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has provided a guide to Catholics voters: *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility From the Catholic Bishops of the United States* which is updated every presidential election year.

Included here is a bulletin announcement that points the faithful to *Faithful Citizenship* to guide them in making decisions concerning for whom they will cast a ballot.

*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility From the Catholic Bishops of the United States*

The Catholic Bishops of the United States and Bishop Michael Olson remind the faithful of their civic and moral responsibility to participate in the upcoming national, state and local elections.

To assist individual Catholics in deciding for whom to vote, the Catholic bishops since 1976 have offered a guide to assist in making decision about for whom to cast their ballot: *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility From the Catholic Bishops of the United States*.

The bishops point out that they “do not intend to tell Catholics for whom or against whom to vote. Our purpose is to help Catholics form their consciences in accordance with God's truth. We recognize that the responsibility to make choices in political life rests with each individual in light of a properly formed conscience, and that participation goes well beyond casting a vote in a particular election.”

The bishops explain the role of the Church is “in the formation of conscience and the corresponding moral responsibility of each Catholic to hear, receive, and act upon the Church's teaching in the lifelong task of forming his or her own conscience. Foremost amongst those teachings are the four basic principles of Catholic social doctrine: the dignity of the human person, the common good, subsidiarity, and solidarity (Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, no. 160). With this foundation, Catholics are better able to evaluate policy positions, party platforms, and candidates' promises and actions in light of the Gospel and the moral and social teaching of the Church in order to help build a better world.”

Please go to *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship-part-one> to assist you in making your political choices.