

FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP SERIES – 5



"**A**t this time, some Catholics may feel politically homeless, sensing that no political party and too few candidates share a consistent concern for human life and dignity. However, this is not a time for retreat or discouragement. We need more, not less engagement in political life. We urge Catholics to become more involved by running for office; by working within political parties; by contributing money or time to campaigns; and by joining diocesan legislative networks, community organizations, and other efforts to apply Catholic principles in the public square." (Administrative Committee, US Bishops, Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility, 2003.)

"**C**atholic teaching offers consistent moral principles to assess issues, political platforms, and campaigns for their impact on human life and dignity. As Catholics, we are not free to abandon unborn children because they are seen as unwanted or inconvenient; to turn our backs on immigrants because they lack the proper documents; to create and then destroy human lives in a quest for medical advances or profit; to turn away from poor women and children because they lack economic or political power; or to ignore sick people because they have no insurance. Nor can we neglect international responsibilities in the aftermath of war because resources are scarce. Catholic teaching requires us to speak up for the voiceless and to act in accord with universal moral values." (Administrative Committee, US Bishops, Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility, 2003.)

"**T**he Catholic community's participation in public affairs does not undermine, but enriches the political process and affirms genuine pluralism. Leaders of the Church have the right and duty to share Catholic teaching and to educate Catholics on the moral dimensions of public life, so that they may form their consciences in light of their faith." (Administrative Committee, US Bishops, Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility, 2003.)

"**[E]**very Catholic is called to an active and faith-filled citizenship, based upon a properly informed conscience, in which each disciple of Christ publicly witnesses to the Church's commitment to human life and dignity with special preference for the poor and the vulnerable." (Administrative Committee, US Bishops, Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility, 2003.)

"**I**n the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue; participation in the political process is a moral obligation. All believers are called to faithful citizenship, to become informed, active, and responsible participants in the political process. (Administrative Committee, US Bishops, Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility, 2003.)

"**T**he Catholic community is large and diverse. We are Republicans, Democrats, and Independents. We are members of every race, come from every ethnic background, and live in urban, rural, and suburban communities in all fifty states. We are CEOs and migrant farm workers, senators and persons on public assistance, business owners and union members. But all Catholics are called to a common commitment to protect human life and stand with those who are poor and vulnerable. We are all called to provide a moral leaven for our democracy, to be the salt of the earth." (Administrative Committee, US Bishops, Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility, 2003.)