



## *Get to Know Your Election Toolkit!*

We at Priests for Life are delighted that you have stepped up to the plate to make a difference in this year's elections, in union with our efforts. This Election Toolkit will assist you. Here is how you can use it fruitfully.

### **1. The Prayer Campaign**

**Background:** ElectionPrayer.com is the website where people will find the prayer for this year's election, and will be able to sign up to let us know they are participating in the prayer campaign and also want to be kept informed of election-related initiatives.

The prayer card you will find in this toolkit is also available in quantity and can be ordered at that website.

The prayer is non-partisan, and so there is no legal problem with using it at Church services or at other gatherings of 501(c)(3) organizations. The prayer is also interdenominational, and can be used in any denomination.

**Action:** See if your Church or pro-life group will link to ElectionPrayer.com from their website or include the link or the card in communications they have with their people prior to the election. Order and distribute the prayer card far and wide and use it at pro-life events.

### **2. The Book: Abolishing Abortion**

**Background:** Fr. Frank Pavone's book *Abolishing Abortion* (2015, Thomas Nelson publishers), was timed for release just prior to an election year. Along with overall strategy for ending abortion, the book focuses on the election in two ways.

First, it builds the case that abortion is the primary and fundamental issue in any election, and points out how the state – in order to survive – must protect the weakest human lives.

Second, it builds the case that the Church is unnecessarily and unwisely stifling her effectiveness by misguided caution when it comes to speaking out about politics. The book shows both how and why pastors and Churches can break free of that self-censorship.

**Action:** You can order this book at [www.AbolishingAbortion.com](http://www.AbolishingAbortion.com). Read the book, and have your local clergy read it too. Photocopy key sections of the book, particularly in Chapters 5, 6, 7, and 8, and pass them along to clergy, or to lay leaders who make decisions about what material goes into the Church bulletin or on the Church website, to show them

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the freedom they have. Some have written letters to their diocese regarding the book and its message, to encourage them to be more free in what they say at election time. Also use this book to encourage local groups not to be afraid to leaflet the Church parking lots with election-related material.

### 3. The Study Guide

**Background:** The best document of the United States bishops about political responsibility is *Living the Gospel of Life*, and your toolkit contains a study guide on this document. For people who wonder why the bishops don't speak out about pro-abortion politicians (and not just Catholic ones!), this document shows that they *have spoken out*. We just need to echo what they have said.

**Action:** Read the document and the study guide, and convene a weekly study group so that others have a chance to study this great resource. Take quotes from *Living the Gospel of Life* and share them online, with your parishes and groups, and with the candidates themselves.

### 4. The Brochures

**Background:** Your toolkit contains *Voting with a Clear Conscience*. The ten easy steps outlined in this brochure cover not only *why and how we vote*, and how we evaluate the issues and candidates, *but also how we make an impact on the election far beyond the one ballot we each can cast*.

The brochure *Ten Responses to Pro-abortion Politicians* summarizes in ten brief points the fact that abortion is not an “issue” that can be dismissed, and that pro-abortion candidates are seriously misguided.

**Action:** Both of these brochures should be distributed widely. *Voting With A Clear Conscience* provides a ten-point course of action that can be disseminated online, in talks, in bulletin inserts, and in small group discussions. Some of those points are action items in and of themselves.

The *Ten Responses* brochure should be used to respond to pro-abortion candidates not only via email and in letters, but also in town hall meetings where you can challenge their stance on abortion with the brief, clear arguments the brochure contains.

### 4. Further Action

Your toolkit joins you with our Priests for Life election-related teachings and activities. Stay connected with us at our action center, [www.PoliticalResponsibility.com](http://www.PoliticalResponsibility.com), where we will keep you up to date on developments in the election, other action items and resources, training seminars and press releases – and ultimately, the news of VICTORY in this urgent effort for the Culture of Life.