

Text of Election Related Radio Spots

53. Our nation's founding fathers knew that every human law is subject to God's law. For example, Alexander Hamilton, a signer of the Constitution, said that God's law is "superior in obligation to any other...No human laws are of any validity if contrary to this."

Other Founding Fathers said the same.

This, of course, is an echo of the words of the apostles themselves who declared, "We must obey God rather than men!"

Christians are called to be responsible and law-abiding citizens. But as the bishops have taught many times, an unjust law -- such as one permitting abortion -- is no law at all. We must not obey it, but rather must oppose it and elect leaders who will pass laws that are just.

133. Primary elections are taking place across the nation during these days, and now is the time to increase our participation in these primaries.

In primaries, we get a wider choice of candidates, and help to create the choices we will see on the ballot on Election Day. The primaries are a perfect opportunity for us to get better candidates, and ultimately, better public officials.

I urge you to take part in the primaries in your state. Every vote counts, and that is even more true in primary elections. To find out the dates and other information, visit priestsforlife.org/vote

Don't you get tired of complaining about laws that fail to protect human life? God, and our American system of voting, have given us an opportunity to do something about it.

189 One of the great things about our American system is that voters not only select which candidates get elected to public office, but also which of those who want to be candidates actually end up on the ballot. In other words, we get to create the choices we will have on Election Day. That's what primaries are all about. Primaries are elections that take place before the general Election Day. The dates of primaries differ in each state. When you vote in a primary, you have a wider range of choices, and are therefore more likely to find a candidate with whom you agree on more issues.

Let's not just settle for the choices we're given on Election Day. Let's help create those choices in the primaries! Find out more at www.priestsforlife.org.

260. There is still time for your parish to organize voter registration Sundays in preparation for the November elections. It is not hard to do. The process simply involves having voter registration forms available at a table in the back of Church, and encouraging people to fill them out right there. It is perfectly legal for Churches to conduct non-partisan voter registration drives.

It is also perfectly in line with the Gospel. After all, Jesus commands us not only to believe his teachings, but to help all people carry them out -- and one of the ways we do that is to shape our laws by electing our leaders. Churchgoers, who hear God's word regularly, can have a strong influence in shaping society according to that Word -- especially if they exercise their duty to vote.

262. Priests for Life has issued a renewed call for Churches to conduct voter registration drives between now and Election Day. It should be noted that voter registration activity is a right of citizens in our country. Different groups can promote it, but they do not own it. In other words, there is not a "Priests for Life" voter registration, or a "St. John's Church" voter registration. There is simply voter registration, and any group can promote it. We should also understand that it is against the law to obstruct or inhibit voter registration activities.

Pro-abortion groups, night clubs, and rock stars are promoting voter registration among their people. Are Churches to do any less?

A single congregation can swing an entire election. Find out more at www.priestsforlife.org

271. Lest anyone think that voting is a mere option rather than a solemn obligation, the following statement was made by Bishop Karl Romer, when he was Secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Family at the Vatican: "Every man has the obligation to vote, because by voting he can determine who will be tomorrow's law-maker, who will make tomorrow's laws either to be unjust and perverse, or to promote human values. . . God asks -- God Himself asks --that every man, every Christian, make his contribution by voting."

Similarly, Cardinal Elio Sgreccia, when he was Vice-President of the Pontifical Academy for Life, stated, "Faithful Christians have a duty to participate in society ... by voting so that they may advance the common good. And this duty must be taken seriously by Christians "

285. One of the activities citizens can carry out at election time is to become poll-watchers. This activity simply involves being present at the polling places on Election Day to insure that elections are conducted fairly, by watching the process by which people sign in at the polls. This activity is a form of public service that involves some simple training and yet goes a long way to protect your rights and those of your fellow citizens as they exercise their Christian duty to vote. Contact your Board of Elections for more details on how you can sign up for this activity. As our bishops have told us -- and as historical experience verifies -- every vote counts. You can help assure that every vote counts fairly.

827. Various voters' guides for Catholics are being made available in these weeks before Election Day. The purpose is to help voters apply Catholic teaching to their voting decisions. Some guides mention the names of candidates and some do not. It is a good thing that there are many groups producing these materials. The mission of shaping the culture, including by educating one another about political matters, belongs to each believer through his or her baptism and confirmation. The Second Vatican Council teaches that the apostolate is assigned by the Lord Himself, and that individuals and groups are to eagerly and vigorously echo and apply the teachings of the Church to concrete situations.

Educational material, of course, has to echo Church teaching faithfully. For info, visit PriestsForLife.org.

836. As Elections approach, it's important to be aware that polling only has a limited and relative value. While it gives some indication of what people think, we should realize that we normally don't see the specific questions they were asked. When it comes to election polling, we also have to pay attention to who is answering the question. There's a difference between a poll of the general public and a poll of likely voters. Elections, after all, are not determined by people's opinions, but by people's votes. The outcome of an election is decided by the people who show up. A certain candidate's positions may enjoy more favor in the polls, but his opponent may have a better get-out-the-vote mechanism.

Some people want you to think that the elections have already been decided. They have not.

837. Whenever you vote for a candidate, you are also voting for a party, especially when the outcome of the election can change the balance of power. Therefore, it's not only the positions of the candidate that matter; it's the positions of the party. Once a party is in power, its positions prevail in the legislative agenda, despite the views of the particular candidate you just elected. The party in power controls committees and legislative schedules and a lot of public relations.

Examine the platforms of the parties. What is the party trying to accomplish for values, for security, and for all the things you care about?

It is not only the candidate that matters; the party matters, too. We are morally responsible to examine all the foreseeable effects of our vote.

842. This is the weekend that many people carry out the spiritual work of mercy of instructing their neighbor – particularly in the matter of who the candidates are in Tuesday's elections, and where those candidates stand on the issues. Your help is needed to carry out this good work. Citizens have a right to know who is asking for their vote, and whether that person will represent their views and work to enact the kind of laws that the citizens want. Many groups have organized literature distribution efforts in these next few days, and need your help to distribute fliers in your neighborhood. Visit priestsforlife.org to learn about the candidates and about how you can help with literature distribution. That's priestsforlife.org.

843. Tomorrow is a judgment day – not the judgment day, but a day of judgment nevertheless, where we, by the way we vote, will get the candidates we deserve. The balance of power in our government is at stake, between those who would want to protect human life in its most vulnerable stages, and those who would allow the slaughter of tens of millions of children to continue by abortion. No other issue or concern comes anywhere close to the magnitude and importance of this one. Tomorrow, cast your vote. Many elections will be very close; just those listening to this message right now can sway the outcome. No political choice is ever perfect. But when the fate of tens of millions of children is in your hands, that takes precedence over other considerations.

844. Today is Election Day. After you cast your vote, however, your job is not finished. Today is the day to mobilize as many others as possible to vote. Contact those who are close to you and share your values, and make sure that they cast their vote as well. Contact those who trust you and listen to you, and tell them who the best candidates are. Elections are not simply contests between candidates; they are contests between teams, and you are part of those teams. Some elections will be so close that you can literally sway the outcome through the votes that you mobilize. For information on the candidates, and ideas for how you can mobilize voters, visit priestsforlife.org. We have given you the tools you need, my friends. Now, it's up to you.

1009. A favorite tactic of the pro-abortion side is to complain about how wrong it is to have "litmus tests" regarding political candidates and judges. But think about it.

If a judge had written an opinion in a law review about why women should not have the right to vote, wouldn't that single issue be enough to most people to disqualify him from being confirmed? Or what if a candidate were known to belong to the Ku Klux Klan? Wouldn't that single fact be enough to disqualify him from consideration?

The fact is that we use litmus tests all the time. There are certain lines that most people agree should not be crossed.

Supporting the killing of children by abortion is one of them.

1175. At every Mass, we ask forgiveness for what we have done and for what we have failed to do.

In elections too, we can sin both ways. We might sin by voting for a measure or a person who will advance evil. We also might sin by failing to vote in such a way that prevents evil. For example, if a worse person gets into office because we failed to vote for the better person, or failed to vote at all, then we are still responsible for the outcome.

We cannot escape our civic responsibility. Voting is not an action to make ourselves feel good or a philosophical statement. It is a practical way to advance the common good and to limit evil. Let's neither miss nor waste our vote; let's make it count.

1200. Sometimes voters may not feel that any candidate in an election meets their satisfaction. But in a case like that, we are still called to use our vote to influence the outcome of the election.

After all, hardly any of our choices in life are between the bad and the perfect. Rather, we are always balancing different levels of imperfection.

When we vote, we not only choose to put someone into office, but we also vote in order to keep someone worse out of office.

Moreover, we do not elect people so that they can do our work for us; we elect people who will not stand in our way as we do the work of the People of God to bring about a Culture of Life.

1250. Incredibly, there are some Catholics who think that a candidate who supports legal abortion can be the better choice in a race with a qualified candidate who understands that the right to life cannot be infringed.

It is hard to imagine the supposed logic of such a position. Once a public official holds that abortion should be legal, he or she has thrown out the window the entire purpose of government, and has made human rights negotiable. For a voter to go along with this just because the candidate's other positions seem good would be like saying to a candidate who supports terrorism, "Well, I disagree with you on terrorism, but what's your health care plan?"

Certain positions are totally incompatible with the common good; permitting child killing is one of them.

1353. Many states allow early voting. This means that even if you do not have a reason why you cannot get to the polls on Election Day, you may vote before Election Day. Priests for Life has posted the regulations and dates that apply to each state. Visit politresponsibility.com and look for the voting info by state.

Why is it a good idea to vote before Election Day? Because we should not put off until tomorrow what we can do today. Every vote really does count, and when we wait until the last possible day to vote, we leave ourselves open to the chance that something will stand in our way -- we may become ill, or have car trouble, or encounter a family problem, or bad weather, or just forget. Don't let that happen! This year, vote early!

1357. From now to Election Day, Priests for Life is conducting a National Campaign of Prayer in preparation for the elections. The intentions of this prayer campaign are a) That in this year's elections, our nation will embrace the moral values of a culture of life; b) That America will reclaim her founding principles of faith and dependence upon God in public life; c) That believers will reject apathy and take an active role in the elections by registering to vote and actually voting; and d) That candidates will understand their responsibility to serve the people, to protect life and family, and to adhere to the law of God.

Visit priestsforlife.org/elections, to sign up for a prayer commitment.

1358. Many of you who listen are not able to get out of the house very easily, or know someone else who is homebound. With Election Day coming up, please be sure to apply as soon as possible for an absentee ballot. The process is easy, and your local Board of Elections will be happy to assist you with every aspect of it.

The laws of this great country provide that even when our physical capacities are limited, our voices can be heard just the same in electing our leaders. If you have relatives and friends who are homebound, making sure that they send in their absentee ballot is a great way of reminding them that they are active citizens nevertheless, and that their involvement is needed. Please request your absentee ballot today!

1363. In an interview with Priests for Life at the Vatican, Cardinal John Foley, who used to head the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, made the following comment about our obligation to vote: *"We have to take part in our democratic process. If we are fortunate enough to have it we have to take part in it... I consider the right to vote as essential in a democracy. If people neglect that basic right, I think it borders on the sinful."*

We also have an obligation to know where the candidates stand, especially on the right to life. If you need that information, please call Priests for Life at 888-735-3448; that's 888-735-3448. Our staff is ready to assist you. Call 888-735-3448.

1573. This year is an election year, and too many people still think that religion and politics don't mix. But with so many public servants failing to tell the difference between serving the public and killing the public, religion is more important than ever to clarify what does and does not belong to the common good.

If a politician cannot respect the life of a little baby in the womb, how can he or she respect your life or mine?

The message of the pro-life movement is not that abortion is the only issue. Rather, the message is that if we fail to protect any segment of the human family, as we now fail to protect the unborn, we have taken away the basis for protecting everyone else. It's time to vote pro-life.

1683 Many Christians who are ready to be involved politically do not know where to turn to find the positions of candidates on the issues. Now, Priests for Life has provided a special web page to help you know where numerous candidates stand. It is at priestsforlife.org/candidates.

You will find there a lot of information that you can quote in letters to the editor, or distribute over the Internet, in the mail or in the neighborhood. Pastors can distribute non-partisan voter guides in Churches, and citizens can distribute both partisan and non-partisan information on the public sidewalks. Why wait until a candidate is already in office to learn what he or she stands for? Do your part to inform your fellow citizens about the candidates! Go to priestsforlife.org/candidates, and spread the word!

1684. As elections draw near, how can we tell where candidates stand on the issues? Their own words can be so deceptive. One way is to look up what individuals or groups are endorsing them or contributing to them. This is public information. You know a person by his or her friends. Also, if the candidate has already held public office, look up his or her voting record. Actions speak louder than words.

And because that's true, we should not simply ask them what they believe, but rather what are they willing to do once in office. Regarding abortion, it's easy to say one is pro-life. But what steps will one commit to in order to advance the protection of the unborn? That's the kind of question we should ask the candidates, and make their answer known.

1685. While voting is always a moral obligation, sometimes that obligation is stronger than at other times. This is especially true when pro-life people have an opportunity to elect, in a close race, someone who is committed to protect the unborn, and remove from office someone else who isn't. The closer a race is, the more each person's vote matters. And among candidates who have a strong enough base to win, we have a moral obligation to vote in such a way that will *do the most* to advance the culture of life. We each have one vote, but we can also influence thousands of other votes. We can directly help candidates by volunteering for their campaigns, and we can help other voters understand their duty and get to the polls.

1686. In elections, it is not the candidate who is right on the issues who necessarily wins, nor even the candidate with whom most people agree. Nor is it the candidate with the most money, nor the one who is ahead in the polls. Rather, the candidate wins who has the higher number of people actually cast their vote.

That is why between now and Election Day it is crucial for each of us to focus on mobilizing more and more votes, on getting people to vote early, and on actually going door to door with election literature. Organize youth groups and other efforts to go throughout your neighborhood with a pro-life message about the importance of the election. Remember, the pro-abortion forces are doing this -- we must not fail to do it ourselves.

1687. Each of us has but one vote. Yet we can all influence *thousands* of votes. And we should start with the people who need the least amount of urging. If you have friends who already agree with you on the key issues of the day, and who would probably support the candidates you support, please make sure that they do in fact intend to vote for that candidate. Some information from you, a friendly nudge, or perhaps a promise of assistance to get them to the polls can go a long way.

We should reach for the "low-hanging fruit." If the same amount of energy by which we persuade one who disagrees with us can mobilize ten people who agree with us already, get the ten first; then come back for the rest.

1973. One thing parishes can do to prepare their people for the elections is to offer a study of the US Bishops' document *Living the Gospel of Life*. Priests for Life has prepared a study guide on this document, in which the bishops indicate why Catholics need to take part in our nation's elections, how they are to evaluate the candidates, and what issues matter the most.

They also give some very clear and strong guidance to Catholic public officials who say they believe what the Church teaches but at the same time fail to protect the most vulnerable human lives from the violence of abortion. Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia has asserted that this document is the best statement of the bishops on political responsibility. Find out more at politicalresponsibility.com.

1974. Before he was elected Pope, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger issued a letter that made it clear that we cannot vote for pro-abortion candidates. He says that abortion is a weightier matter than other issues.

But what if all the viable candidates are pro-abortion, and we know that one of them will win? Must we refrain from voting altogether? The answer is no. We can vote in that case for the better of the two -- the one who will do the least damage and protect more lives.

This is an example of what the Cardinal means in the footnote of his letter. He does not say, and he does not mean, that we can vote for pro-abortion candidates just because we like their other positions. Find out more at politicalresponsibility.com.

2049. Suppose a candidate for public office said that although he personally opposed terrorism, he thought the terrorists had a right to choose to do what they did, and should

not be stopped. What kind of support do you think this candidate would have? Would people say, "I disagree with you about the terrorists, but what is your economic policy?" Certain positions of candidates are so clearly contrary to the good of the nation that the candidate's other positions, although good, do not matter.

Permitting abortion is another example. The procedure destroys 3000 children daily in our country. Support for it disqualifies a candidate from public office. When you know a candidate would permit abortion, that's all you need to know to refuse him your vote. No further questions are needed.

2059. The elections of 2020 are well underway. They will determine, among other things, the direction in which our nation's federal courts will go. The President nominates these judges – not just for the Supreme Court, but for the district and appellate courts – and the US Senate confirms them.

Starting now, we need to know where candidates for president and US Senate stand on judges. Do they believe they are bound by the text of the law and the Constitution, and by principles like the sanctity of life and religious freedom? Now is the time to ask those questions.

Find out if there will be a US Senate race in your state, and if so, whether your current Senator plans to run again. The process of being an informed voter in 2020 starts now.