



# Faithful Citizenship Bulletin

## Quotes *and* Clip Art

The following quotes are designed to be used in bulletins and other documents during the months and weeks preceding the election. This is a simple but effective way to help Catholics learn about our teaching on political life. It is best to use a variety of quotes over time so that the breadth of Catholic teaching is reflected. Providing a range of quotes over time can help build the interest and deepen the understanding of parishioners.

In times of war, of global insecurity and economic uncertainty, of disrespect for human life and human dignity, we need to return to basic moral principles. Politics . . . should be about fundamental moral choices. How do we protect human life and dignity? How do we fairly share the blessings and burdens of the challenges we face? What kind of nation do we want to be? What kind of world do we want to shape?

- USCCB Administrative Committee,  
*Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to  
Political Responsibility, pp 1-2*

Politics . . . should be about an old idea with new power – the common good. The central question should not be, “Are you better off than you were four years ago?” It should be, “How can ‘we’ – all of us, especially the weak and vulnerable – be better off in the years ahead? How can we protect and promote human life and dignity? How can we pursue greater justice and peace?”

- USCCB Administrative Committee,  
*Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to  
Political Responsibility, p 2*

As we approach the elections of 2004, we renew our call for a new kind of politics – focused on moral principles and not the latest polls, on the needs of the poor and vulnerable not the contributions of the rich and powerful, and on the pursuit of the common good not the demands of special interests.

- USCCB Administrative Committee,  
*Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to  
Political Responsibility, p 3*

At this time, some Catholics may feel politically homeless, sensing that no political party and too few candidates share 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.

- USCCB Administrative Committee,  
*Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to  
Political Responsibility, p 3*

A Catholic moral framework does not easily fit the ideologies of “right” or “left,” nor the platforms of any party. Our values are often not “politically correct.” Believers are called to be a community of conscience within the larger society and to test the public life by the values of Scripture and the principles of Catholic social teaching. Our responsibility is to measure all candidates, policies, parties, and platforms by how they protect or undermine the life, dignity, and the rights of the human person, whether they protect the poor and the vulnerable and advance the common good.

- USCCB Administrative Committee,  
*Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to  
Political Responsibility, p 7*

Jesus called us to “love one another.” Our Lord’s example and words demand care for the “least of these” from each of us. Yet they also require action on a broader scale. Faithful citizenship is about more than elections. It requires ongoing participation in the continuing political and legislative process.

- USCCB Administrative Committee,  
*Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to  
Political Responsibility, p 7*

In 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.

- USCCB Administrative Committee,  
*Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to  
Political Responsibility, p 8*

As bishops, we seek to form the consciences of our people. We do not wish to instruct persons on how they should vote by endorsing or opposing candidates. We hope that our votes will examine the position of candidates on the full range of issues, as well as on their personal integrity, philosophy, and performance. We are convinced that a consistent ethic of life should be the moral framework from which to address issues in the political arena.

- USCCB Administrative Committee,  
*Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to  
Political Responsibility, p 11*

For Catholics, the defense of human life and dignity is not a narrow cause, but a way of life and a framework for action. . . . Decisions about candidates and choices about public policies require clear commitment to moral principles, careful discernment and prudential judgments based on the values of our faith.

- USCCB Administrative Committee,  
*Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to  
Political Responsibility, p 12*

The coming elections provide important opportunities to bring together our principles, experience, and community in effective public witness. . . . As Catholics we need to share our values, raise our voices, and use our votes to shape a society that protects human life, promotes family life, pursues social justice, and practices solidarity.

- USCCB Administrative Committee,  
*Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility*, p 12

Building peace, combating poverty and despair, and protecting freedom and human rights are not only moral imperatives; they are wise national priorities. Given its enormous power and influences in world affairs, the United States has a special responsibility to ensure that it is a force for justice and peace beyond its borders. "Liberty and justice for all" is not only a profound national pledge; it is a worthy goal for our nation in its role as a world leader

- USCCB Administrative Committee,  
*Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility*, p 28

What does it mean to be Catholic and living in the United States in the year 2004 and beyond? As *Catholics*, the election and the policy choices that follow it call us to recommit ourselves to carry the values of the Gospel and the church teaching into the public square. As *citizens and residents of the United States*, we have the duty to participate now and in the future in the debates and choices over the values, vision, and leaders that will guide our nation.

- USCCB Administrative Committee,  
*Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility*, p 29-30

This dual calling of faith and citizenship is at the heart of what it means to be Catholic in the United States. Faithful citizenship calls us to seek "a place at the table" of life for all God's children in the elections of 2004 and beyond.

- USCCB Administrative Committee,  
*Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility*, p 30