

Archdiocese of Santa Fe
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OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

September 1, 2020

Dear Pastors, Administrators and Parish Life Coordinators:

I wanted to make you aware of the 2019 limited revision of the USCCB document *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* including a new Introductory letter and our local Archdiocese *Policies on Political Campaign Activities*. This 2019 limited revision gives pastoral guidance to help Catholics in the United States exercise their political responsibility well.

The Introductory Letter responds to new social and political developments in the United States, especially with regard to respect for human life and dignity, as well as the ongoing guidance and teachings of Pope Francis. The content of Part I, II, and III of this teaching document remains unchanged from the 2015 statement. This revision also includes a new *Prayer for Faithful Citizenship*.

This important document on political responsibility, read in its totality, will guide Catholics as they discern how to be faithful citizens. *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* continues to present to the Catholic faithful, and all those of good will, an up-to-date guide to help form consciences as they participate in the civil order and public life.

The document was updated in 2015 to reflect recent developments in both domestic and foreign policy:

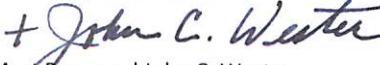
- A broken immigration system and a worldwide refugee crisis
- Millions of innocent lives lost due to abortion
- Physician-assisted suicide
- The redefinition of marriage
- The excessive consumption of material goods and destruction of natural resources, which harm both the environment and the poor
- The deadly attacks on fellow Christians and religious minorities throughout the world
- The narrowing redefinition of religious freedom
- Economic policies that fail to prioritize the poor, at home or abroad
- Wars, terror, and violence that threaten every aspect of human life and dignity

I have enclosed a copy of our local Archdiocese of Santa Fe policies on Campaign Activities, a bulletin insert on Conscience Formation and a copy of the *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* document. More information on *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* as well as on the *Civilize It!* campaign for civil dialogue are available in English and Spanish free on-line: www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/ and www.civilizeit.org. Materials can also be ordered from that site. New materials are added regularly, so check the website frequently. They include:

- Booklet for distribution
- One page (two sided) Bulletin Inserts on different topics including the following:
Summary of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship document, Conscience formation, Civil dialogue, Contacting your elected officials
- Parish ideas
- Bulletin suggestions and clip art
- Liturgy guides, prayer and reflection resources
- Homily Helps
- Ideas for Catechists, teachers, adult formation leaders
- Ideas for Social Concerns and Respect Life groups
- Information on Catholic Social Teaching principles (including downloadable Podcasts/videos)
- New bi-lingual short Catholic social teaching videos on protecting the life and dignity of all

The Ministry Resource Center at Lourdes Hall has copies of the booklet available for check out, or the materials can be downloaded from www.faithfulcitizenship.org. I thank you in advance for all your work to promote faithful citizenship and the principles of Catholic social teaching on which it is based. Please call if you have any questions!

Sincerely yours in the Lord,


Most Reverend John C. Wester
Archbishop of Santa Fe