



Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship



In the eight weeks leading up to our national elections, Campus Ministry will provide excerpts from Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, the teaching document of the Catholic Bishops of the United States on the political responsibility of Catholics. It provides guidance for all who seek to exercise their rights and duties as citizens. As Catholics, we bring the richness of our faith to the public square. We draw from both faith and reason as we seek to affirm the dignity of the human person and the common good of all.

(See the full text of the document in English at <https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/upload/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship.pdf> and in Spanish at <https://www.usccb.org/resources/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship-spanish.pdf>.)



Week 6: October 12-16

4 Principles to Guide Our Participation: IV. Solidarity

IV. Solidarity

Solidarity is “a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to . . . the good of all and of each individual, because we are *all* really responsible for *all*.” It is found in “a commitment to the good of one’s neighbor with the readiness, in the Gospel sense, to ‘lose oneself’ for the sake of the other instead of exploiting him, and to ‘serve him’ instead of oppressing him for one’s own advantage.”

We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Our Catholic commitment to solidarity requires that we pursue justice, eliminate racism, end human trafficking, protect human rights, seek peace, and avoid the use of force except as a necessary last resort.

In a special way, our solidarity must find expression in the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable. A moral test for society is how we treat the weakest among us—the unborn, those dealing with disabilities or terminal illness, the poor, and the marginalized.

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Prepared by The Office of Campus Ministry at Assumption University to help members of the University community form their consciences and prepare to participate in the upcoming national elections. All material is drawn from the "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.