



STEWARDSHIP *Citizenship*

A Guide to Stewardship of Citizenship

Our Catholic faith doesn't end at the doors of the church. Stewardship calls us to use all that we have—our time, voice, convictions, and conscience—for the glory of God and the good of our neighbor. That includes our role as citizens.

To be a faithful citizen is to live as a steward of truth, justice, and community. We are called to be active participants in society—not for power, but for witness. Not for partisanship, but for the common good.

Catholic stewardship of citizenship means:

- Time: engaging with political and social life through prayer, discernment, and learning.
- Talent: using our voices and gifts to defend human dignity, life, and the vulnerable.
- Treasure: supporting organizations and ministries that promote Gospel values in society.

Stewardship of citizenship isn't about winning arguments. It's about building the Kingdom—one vote, one act of justice, and one conversation at a time.

Best Practices

- Form Your Conscience Through Faith and Reason. Learn what the Church teaches about human dignity, justice, and the common good.
- Engage in Civil and Moral Public Life. Use your voice, vote, and actions to promote human dignity, peace, and justice.
- Serve the Common Good in Daily Life. Be an active, responsible member of your community—not only during election seasons.

FAITHFUL CITIZEN OPPORTUNITIES



Vote

Vote with a well-formed conscience.

Educate yourself using Church resources like Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship (USCCB).



Advocate

Advocate for justice and the dignity of life. Speak up for the unborn, the poor, the migrant, the elderly, and the marginalized.



Serve

Serve in the community. Volunteer for local initiatives: food pantries, schools, neighborhood cleanups, or civic boards.



Promote

Promote respectful dialogue and unity. Model civil discourse and charity, especially in divisive conversations. Be a peacemaker who bridges gaps with truth, humility, and compassion.

Responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. – Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship (USCCB)



Faithful Citizenship

Read the USCCB's teaching document, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*

It calls Catholics to bring the richness of their faith to public life and to exercise political responsibility guided by well-formed consciences. Grounded in the belief that faith has social implications, it urges Catholics to promote human dignity, care for the common good, and participate actively and morally in political and social issues.

Key themes include:

- The Dignity of the Human Person
- The Common Good
- Subsidiarity
- Solidarity
- Formation of Conscience and Prudence
- Political Engagement
- Moral Decision-Making
- A Call for a New Kind of Politics

Reflection Questions for Catholics

Personal Discipleship and Public Life

How does my faith shape the way I view political and social issues?

Do I bring the same moral clarity and compassion into the voting booth that I seek to live in my everyday life?

Conscience and Decision-Making

Have I formed my conscience through prayer, Scripture, and Church teaching?

Do I understand the difference between intrinsic evils and prudential judgments when evaluating candidates or policies?

Moral Priorities

Do I prioritize the protection of human life from conception to natural death as a foundational concern?

How do I respond to the needs of the poor, the immigrant, and the vulnerable in my civic engagement?

Catholic Social Teaching in Action

Am I familiar with the four pillars of Catholic social teaching—dignity, common good, subsidiarity, and solidarity?

How can I live these principles in my community, workplace, or family life?

Political Responsibility

Do I participate in elections and civic discussions with a spirit of love, truth, and justice?

How do I avoid partisanship and instead focus on Gospel values when making political choices?

Hope and Evangelization

Do I see politics as an opportunity for evangelization and charity?

In what ways can I be a witness to faith, justice, and mercy in the public square?

It is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. This obligation is inherent in the dignity of the human person. CCC 1913