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**Week 4: Pray, Learn, Act as Faithful Citizens**

**Intro:** The Office of Human Life and Dignity and Catholic Charities- Social Concerns have collaborated to offer the fourth of seven weeks of prayer, study and action as we prepare for an upcoming election. This week, we will continue to explore the teaching document from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,* which “provides guidance for all who seek to exercise their rights and duties as citizens.” We will take a brief look at the second section of the Bishops’ statement. Recognizing that in all times and places “Jesus Christ is Lord,” (Philippians 2:11) we begin in prayer

**Pray:**

Holy Spirit,
     We praise and thank you!

You anoint us to
     bring glad tidings to the poor
     proclaim liberty to captives
     recover sight for the blind
     free the oppressed
     and build communities in keeping
     with God's vision of justice.

Show us how to be
     light of the world
     salt of the earth
     seeds that sprout love
     and leaven that infuses humanity
     with the desire to promote
     human dignity and solidarity.

Help us to listen so that
     those in poverty can lead our efforts to
     proclaim a more hopeful vision
     liberate captives from injustice
     heal the blindness of the powerful
     free us all from self-centeredness
     and build community to overcome poverty.

Amen.

*USCCB* [*https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/help-us-build-communities-in-gods-vision-of-justice*](https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/help-us-build-communities-in-gods-vision-of-justice)

**Learn:**

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship - Part II - Applying Catholic Teaching to Major Issues: A Summary of Policy Positions of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

“Politics is a noble mission to promote the common good. As such, it is about ethics and principles as well as issues, candidates, and officeholders. To engage in "politics," then, is more than getting involved in current polemics and debates; it is about acting with others and through institutions for the benefit of all. The fact that much of our political rhetoric has become very negative and that political polarization seems to have grown should not dissuade us from the high calling to work for a world that allows everyone to thrive, a world in which all persons, all families, have what they need to fulfill their God-given destiny. In our democracy, one aspect of this task for all of us requires that we weigh issues and related policies.

While people of good will may sometimes choose different ways to apply and act on some of our principles, Catholics cannot ignore their inescapable moral challenges or simply dismiss the Church's guidance or policy directions that flow from these principles.” *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*

Space does not permit us the opportunity to quote each issue at length, but we cannot urge you strongly enough to review the document *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* for yourself in order to discern your vote. The following is a list of the issues that the document addresses in greater detail, and the paragraphs where you might find information on each.

* Human Life: paragraphs 64, 65, 66, and 67
* Promoting Peace: paragraphs 68 and 69
* Marriage and Family Life: paragraphs 70 and 71
* Religious Freedom: paragraph 72
* Preferential Option for the Poor and Economic Justice: paragraphs 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, and 79
* Health Care: paragraph 80
* Migration: paragraph 81
* Catholic Education: paragraphs 82 and 83
* Promoting Justice and Countering Violence: paragraph 84
* Combatting Unjust Discrimination: paragraph 85
* Care for Our Common Home: paragraph 86
* Communications, Media, and Culture: paragraphs 87, 88, and 89
* Global Solidarity: paragraph 90.

**Act:**

After a thorough reading of part two of *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,* sign up to participate in national Catholic advocacy campaigns, find your official representatives, find legislation, and sign up for the newsletter at the USCCB Action Center by visiting www.VoterVOICE.net/usccb/home. For local Catholic issues, visit [www.votervoice.net/INDIANACC/home](http://www.votervoice.net/INDIANACC/home).

*Pray-Learn-Act as Faithful Citizens is a collaboration between the Office of Human Life and Dignity and Catholic Charities-Social Concerns of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.*

**Intro:** **La Oficina de Vida y Dignidad Humana y Caridades Católicas- Preocupaciones Sociales han colaborado para ofrecerte la cuarta semana de oración, estudio y acción como preparación de las próximas elecciones. Esta semana continuamos explorando el documento de enseñanza de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos, *Formando Conciencia para Una Ciudadanía Fiel,* que “provee guía para todos los que buscan ejercer sus derechos y deberes como ciudadanos”. Veremos brevemente la segunda sección de la declaración de los obispos. Reconociendo que en todo tiempo y en todos lugares “Jesucristo es el Señor” (Filipenses 2:11) comenzamos en oración**

**Oremos:**

Espíritu Santo,
     Te alabamos y te agradecemos!

Úngenos para
     Traer buenas nuevas a los pobres

 Proclamar la libertad a los cautivos

 Recuperar la vista para los ciegos

 Liberar a los oprimidos

 y construir y mantener comunidades

 Con la visión de justicia de Dios.

Muéstranos como ser
     la luz del mundo
     la sal de la tierra
     semillas que broten amor
     y levadura que infunde humanidad
     con el deseo de promover
la dignidad y la solaridad humana

Ayúdanos a escuchar para que
   los que viven en la pobreza puedan dirigir nuestros esfuerzos para
 Proclamar una visión más esperanzadora
    liberar a los cautivos de la injusticia
    curar la ceguera de los poderosos
    libéranos a todos del egocentrismo
    y construir comunidad para superar la pobreza.

Amén.

*USCCB* [*https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/help-us-build-communities-in-gods-vision-of-justice*](https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/prayers/help-us-build-communities-in-gods-vision-of-justice)

**Acción:**

**Después de leer completamente la segunda parte de *Formando Consciencias para Una Ciudadanía Fiel,* regístrese para participar en campañas nacionales de defensa Católica, encuentre a sus representantes oficiales, encuentre legislación y suscríbase al boletín en el Centro de Acción de la USCCB visitando:** [www.VoterVOICE.net/usccb/home](http://www.VoterVOICE.net/usccb/home) **Para asuntos católicos locales, visite:** [www.votervoice.net/INDIANACC/home](http://www.votervoice.net/INDIANACC/home).

Orar – Aprender – Actuar como ciudadanos fieles es una colaboración entre la Oficina de Vida y Dignidad Humana y Caridades Católicas – Asuntos sociales de la Arquidiócesis de Indianápolis.

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