

“Love ought to show itself in deeds more than in words.”

**These powerful words from St. Ignatius of Loyola reminds us that casting a ballot can be an act of love---
a way to live out the greatest commandments, to love and serve God and to love our neighbor.**

**Gaudete et Exsultate
March 2018
Pope Francis**

101. Our defense of the innocent unborn, for example, needs to be clear, firm and passionate for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always sacred and demands love for each person, regardless of his or her state of development. Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born.

**Gaudete et Exsultate
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102. Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and elderly exposed to covert euthanasia, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection. We cannot uphold an ideal of holiness that would ignore injustice in a world where some revel, spend with abandon and live only for the latest consumer goods, even as others look on from afar, living their entire lives in object poverty.

General Audience June 3, 2020

We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of every human life.



**Forming Conscience for Faithful
Citizenship USCCB 11/2019**

25. The right to life implies and is linked to other human rights-to the basic goods that every human person needs to live and thrive. All the life issues are connected, for erosion of respect for the life of any individual or group in society necessarily diminishes respect for all life. The moral imperative to respond to the needs of our neighbors-basic needs such as food, shelter, health care, education, and meaningful work-is universally binding on our consciences and may be legitimately fulfilled by a variety of means. Catholics must seek the best ways to respond to these needs.

**Forming Conscience for Faithful Citizenship
USCCB 11/2019**

16. As the Holy Father also taught in *Deus Caritas Est*, "The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society is proper to the lay faithful" (no. 29). This duty is more critical than ever in today's political environment, where Catholics may feel politically disenfranchised, sensing that no party and too few candidates fully share the Church's comprehensive commitment to the life and dignity of every human being from conception to natural death. Yet this is not a time for retreat.

SACRED PRIORTIES FOR VOTERS TO CONSIDER IN THE 2020 ELECTIONS

“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40

In recent years, Pope Francis has provided explicit instruction on the many ways we are called to promote and defend the sacredness of all life. He and our Bishops have stated that the defense of the unborn is a priority. But they have gone on to reiterate that **equally sacred** and important is all life, from womb to grave, in living out Jesus’ demand that we love others as much as ourselves, as much as we love Him, and that in serving others we are serving Him. Let us prayerfully consider the points below as we decide on who and what to vote for in this year’s election. Evaluate a candidate and their commitment to Gospel values:

Defense of the unborn is clear

- Strives to overturn Roe Vs Wade
- Would increase access to prenatal health care and nutrition
- Addresses maternal mortality especially in Black women
- Addresses housing and support during and after birth of a child

I was hungry and you gave me food,

- Seeks to address the causes of hunger
- Supports adopting a living minimum wage
- Addresses food insecurity availability and affordability
- Supports supplemental programs e.g. SNAP, Food stamps, WIC

I was thirsty and you gave me drink,

- Pursues clean drinking water for everyone
- Protects the environment and natural resources
- Protects those who thirst for justice:
 - Upholds Human Trafficking Victims’ Rights
 - Supports workers’ right to organize
 - Promotes a just tax code
 - Defends LGBTQ+ rights
 - Works to end Racism

I was a stranger and you welcomed me,

- Follows and respects International Asylum laws
- Bases immigration policy on family unity
- Insures humane treatment at the border
- Extends support to immigrant families and treats them with respect.
- Finds a path to citizenship and allows DACA protections

I was naked and you clothed me,

- Supports people with disabilities
- Provide shelter and services for the homeless
- Increases services for veterans
- Opposes predatory lending and financial services
- Open paths for affordable housing and enforces fair housing laws

I was ill and you cared for me,

- Has a plan to make health care affordable and available for everyone
- Opposes cuts to Medicaid
- Opposes cuts to Social Security
- Supports care of the elderly in all aspects
- Works to control Drug Prices
- Opposes euthanasia and assisted suicide

I was in prison and you visited me,

- Supports communities and the police in establishing equitable law enforcement and protection
- Strives to increase prison safety
- Abolishes the death penalty
- Addresses systemic Racism and its confines and seeks cooperation as a nation in ending it.
- Demonstrates “Equal” by actions in relating to Blacks, Latinx, Indigenous People, Women, LGBTQ+ and all people and showing respect and concern for all people.