



WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BISHOPS PROVIDE RESOURCES AND PROMOTE FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP IN PUBLIC POLICY AND ELECTIONS

The Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC), the public policy voice of Wisconsin’s bishops, is sharing resources to help Catholics reflect on what it means to be a faithful citizen. Faithful citizenship is the mindful consideration of public policy and voting issues through the lens of the Church’s social teaching. It is also a call to action to get involved with legislative policy and to exercise the right to vote, so as to uphold human dignity and promote the common good.

In a letter to all Wisconsin Catholics, the bishops of Wisconsin wrote:

“On the eve of a new election cycle, may we all be inspired by the example of the Good Samaritan, who in mercy encountered, accompanied, and helped heal a stranger. He did so by ignoring divisiveness, anger, fear, and misinformation.”

The bishops encouraged people to be faithful citizens and become politically engaged, saying:

“Because politics is one of the main ways citizens can serve their neighbors by advancing the common good, ‘it should always be understood not as an appropriation of power, but as the “highest form of charity”’ (Pope Francis, Audience, 1/8/2024). Only faithful and engaged citizens can motivate candidates and lawmakers to serve the common good and not narrow special interests.”

WCC Executive Director Barbara Sella stressed the importance of civility and learning about Catholic social teaching:

“It is essential that Catholics and all others of good will foster civility, so that differences over public policies can be worked through in a thoughtful manner and creative solutions can be found based on our common values. The Church calls all of us, each in our own way, to become bridge builders and Catholic social teaching shows us how to do it.”

As in years past, the WCC resources are based on the U.S. Bishops’ statement, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States* (faithfulcitizenship.org). Resources include the bishops’ letter with an overview of Catholic Social Teaching, bulletin inserts on *Our Call as Catholic Citizens* and voter information, and a website with more resources on faithful citizenship. Parishes are invited to share the resources in bulletins and digital communications.

All resources can be found at wisconsincatholic.org/fc.

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