

# The Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception

The Mother Church of the Faithful of the Archdiocese of Kingston

The Most Reverend Brendan M. O'Brien, Archbishop of Kingston



*“Whoever wishes to  
become great  
among you must be  
your servant, and  
whoever wishes to  
be first among you  
must be slave of all.  
For the Son of Man  
came not to be  
served but to serve,  
and to give his life  
as a ransom for  
many.”  
(Mark 10:43-45)*

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Parish Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9-5, closed 12 noon-1 pm.

Mass Schedule: St. James Chapel: Mon.-Sat. 7:45 am Cathedral: Mon.-Fri. 12:10 pm

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm; Sunday Masses: 8:00 am, 10:30 am, 7:30 pm

Opportunities for Confession: One half hour prior to every Mass held in the Cathedral;  
Wednesdays 1 pm – 5pm, Saturdays 4 pm – 4:50 pm

## Parish Staff

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[karenking333@gmail.com](mailto:karenking333@gmail.com),  
613-541-5010 ext. 2415

## Please pray for the Sick:

Allen Barclay, Darren Black,  
Olga Cherniej, Maria Cordeiro,  
Rene DeBernardi, Lidwien Gräfe,  
Irene Haugh, James Hunter,  
Theresa Knott, Hermina Lawlor,  
Brenda Lewis, Earl McDonald,  
Shirley Schuurs, David Tessier.

## Al-anon and Alateen:

Alcoholism can tear a family apart.  
Al-anon and/or Alateen can help  
families/friends of problem  
drinkers. For info. in the Kingston  
area, please call 613-384-2134.

# 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

**St. Mary's Moms and Tots:** Inviting all members in the Kingston area for faith formation and fellowship. Babysitting provided. The first and third Tuesday of each Month, 10-11:30 am, St. Mary's Parish Centre, 260 Brock St. Tues. Oct. 20th.  
**Catholic Women's League** meeting, Tuesday, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in St. Mary's Parish Centre.

**Project Rachel:** Are you hurting from an abortion experience? We can help. Call 416-629-8264 or e-mail [ProjectRachel@StMarysRefuge.org](mailto:ProjectRachel@StMarysRefuge.org). A weekend retreat for women whose hearts have been broken by abortion: Oct. 23-25, 2015.

**Theology of the Body Workshop:** The workshop will be held on Fri., Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sat., Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> & Sun., Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary's Parish Centre. To register contact Caitlin: 613-766-1246, [lifeandhopekingston@gmail.com](mailto:lifeandhopekingston@gmail.com) Check out our facebook page: [www.facebook.com/lifeandhopecentre](http://www.facebook.com/lifeandhopecentre). On line registration: <https://tobfall2015.eventbrite.ca>

There will be a general meeting of the **St Joseph's School of Nursing Alumnae** on Thursday the 22nd of October at the Hotel Dieu Hospital on the Centenary 2 level at 7 p.m. All welcome and encouraged to attend.

**Church of the Assumption Erinsville Parish Bazaar;** Sat. Oct 31 at St. Patrick's School Hall from 10am to 1pm. Admission: Morning coffee, tea, juice and muffins for \$3.00; Soup or Chili luncheon \$4.00. Homemade crafts, Christmas gifts, baking, preserves and candy sales. Door prizes & Gift draw.

**St. Mary's Cemetery Service: Sunday, November 1, at 2 pm.** "It is a good and holy thing to pray for the dead." 2 Maccabees 12:46. It is a longstanding Catholic November tradition to gather in cemeteries to pray for our beloved faithful departed. This year we will gather on Sunday, November 1 at 2 pm in St. Mary's Cemetery If you have lost someone this past year or in years past, join us for a simple prayer service in St. Mary's Cemetery. Your loved one does not have to be buried in St. Mary's for you to join us in praying for all those interred there and for all the deceased members of our families and our parish interred elsewhere. (Enter off Division St., drive past the office, drive past the mausoleums, and drive straight ahead to the cul-de-sac where the vault is located. We will gather there for our prayers.)

**The Kingston St. Andrew School of Evangelization** presents the course, *Jesus in the Four Gospels*, November 5-8, 2015. Thur. 6-9pm, Fri & Sat. 8:30 am -8:30 pm & Sun. 8:30am – 4 pm.

**Oremus: Let us Pray** concludes on Saturday, Nov. 21st, 10 am to 1 pm in St. Mary's Parish Centre

## Message from Archbishop O'Brien

This weekend, October 17<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>, we are celebrating **World Mission Sunday 2015**, when we are called to focus our attention on the needs of the Church in the developing world.

Our prayers and financial support are vitally needed by missionaries serving in more than 1,150 dioceses throughout Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe. Your generosity makes it possible for local priests, religious, and catechists to reach out to communities, families, and children in desperate need, bringing the light of Christ to the darkest of circumstances.

World Mission Sunday does not just happen here in our local Church. It is truly a universal celebration – a worldwide recommitment – uniting Catholics throughout the world to the Church's evangelizing mission. This Sunday provides us with a renewed opportunity to pray in solidarity for the work of the missionary Church.

I encourage you to support this collection and continue to pray that all of us in this Archdiocese may be eager and effective witnesses of Jesus in our world, which is so in need of His love and peace.

Masses

Monday Oct. 19th

7:45 am Frances Dwyer

12:10 pm Victor Duarte, John Duarte

Tuesday Oct. 20th

7:45 am Joseph Healy Patterson, Mary Ellen Kelly Patterson, deceased & living members of Kelly and Patterson families

12:10 pm Intentions of the CWL

Wed. Oct. 21st

7:45 am Joseph Healy Patterson, Mary Ellen Kelly Patterson, deceased & living members of Kelly and Patterson families

12:10 pm Leo Vallieres, 2<sup>nd</sup> anni

Thurs. Oct. 22nd

7:45 am Hermina & Werenfried Van de Ven

12:10 pm Murray Gilmour, 2<sup>nd</sup> anni

Fri. Oct. 23rd

7:45 am Hermina & Werenfried Van de Ven

12:10 pm Victor Duarte, John Duarte

Sat. Oct. 24th

7:45 am Joseph Healy Patterson, Mary Ellen Kelly Patterson, deceased & living members of Kelly and Patterson families

5 pm Fabian Lima, 4<sup>th</sup> anni

Sun. Oct. 25th

8 am Frances Dwyer

10:30 am for the people

7:30 pm Elisabeth Gatti

**Ministries: Sat. Oct. 24th 5 pm**

Altar Servers	Doug S. Elizabeth S.
Lectors	Cathy H. Mark M.
EM of the Eucharist	Theresa D.

**Sunday Oct. 25th 8 am**

Altar Servers	Marcel R. Emily R. Betty R.
Lectors	Diane D. Bill M.
EM of the Eucharist	Doug S. Betty R.

**Sunday Oct. 25th, 10:30 am**

Altar Servers	Nick B. Mario D. Glen M. Alec D.
Lectors	Callie M. Janice L.
EM of the Eucharist	Elizabeth S. Janet W. Grace G. Connie A. Bob C. Carmen D. Jose C.

**Sunday Oct. 25th, 7:30 pm**

Altar Servers	Doug S. Pene L.
Lectors	Colby P. Olivia M.
EM of the Eucharist	Ellen H. Pene L.

**Gardening Committee** and anyone who cares to join us. It is time to put the gardens to bed for the winter and do the fall planting. We will gather at 1 pm on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> (rain date Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>.) Many hands make light work.

**Many thanks to Janice and Richard Lumb** for the wonderful display of pumpkins and gourds for the Thanksgiving Weekend. Many thanks to Honey Wagon Farms of Picton who donated the produce. Please be sure and patronize their stand at the Farmer's Market behind City Hall on Saturdays.

**Final Opportunity to make Prayer Requests:** Father Shawn and many of our parishioners will be leaving on the pilgrimage to the Shrines of Italy on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> and returning Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>. If you have a special intention you wish to be prayed for in Rome and at all the other Holy Places, please place an envelope in the container at the back of the cathedral and I will pray for all of these intentions at the sacred places we will be visiting.



**GROUP OPPORTUNITIES: The Knights of Columbus 4<sup>th</sup> degree Assembly are Raising Money to assist St. Mary's Cathedral.**

By purchasing baseball, hockey, theatre and football tickets and even some frozen meat in bulk the Knights are leveraging the power of group purchasing to obtain great group rate opportunities to benefit Knights of Columbus members, family, parish communities and those the Knights support. With this program to date the Knights have provided \$4995 in savings for 177 participants. Not only is this a great savings for you, the purchaser, it also provides a modest commission to the Knights which they have decided to be used on work to be done on the cathedral. This money will be given to Archbishop O'Brien to assist the archdiocese in their share of the cathedral's restoration work. For sports events that are out of town there are also buses put on or you can provide your own transportation. Deals on; Blue Jays Play-off games,

[http://jvcleary857.com/pb/wp\\_34ac7325/wp\\_34ac7325.html](http://jvcleary857.com/pb/wp_34ac7325/wp_34ac7325.html)

Ottawa Senators games,

[http://jvcleary857.com/pb/wp\\_fee62415/wp\\_fee62415.html](http://jvcleary857.com/pb/wp_fee62415/wp_fee62415.html)

Ottawa Redbacks games,

[http://jvcleary857.com/pb/wp\\_8440acfb/wp\\_8440acfb.html](http://jvcleary857.com/pb/wp_8440acfb/wp_8440acfb.html)

Kingston Frontenac games,

[http://jvcleary857.com/pb/wp\\_643c9719/wp\\_643c9719.html](http://jvcleary857.com/pb/wp_643c9719/wp_643c9719.html)

To purchase Lamb in bulk

[http://jvcleary857.com/pb/wp\\_91f5a263/wp\\_91f5a263.html](http://jvcleary857.com/pb/wp_91f5a263/wp_91f5a263.html)

If you are planning an event and would like the Knights to secure you a cheaper group rate, contact Sir Knight Peter Scott, coordinator of the Knights Group Opportunities at [grouprates@jvcleary857.com](mailto:grouprates@jvcleary857.com). To date this project has raised just short of \$2,000 for the cathedral. This is not limited to members of the Knights. Anyone in any city can take advantage of this group opportunity by emailing, Sir Knight Peter Scott.



**THANK YOU!!! The Catholic Women's League Thanksgiving Pies Fundraiser**

was a huge success. 113 pies were sold, almost equally apple and pumpkin, ordered by 62 people. We raised over \$800 which will support C.W.L. initiatives in our parish. Thank you to everyone who bought our pies. We hope you enjoyed them with your friends and family. Thank you to our

members who helped by taking orders, purchasing supplies, baking, or by providing financial support: Domenica Bracciadieta, Sylvie Crawford, Santina Donini, Diane Duttie, Lisa Fitch, Lola Gourdiere, Betty Graham, Lois Halligan, Janice Lumb, Amelia Marrello, Marian Meagher, Rita Murray, Donna North, Joan Sherwood, Audrey Sims, Betty Spencer, Marietta Tamondong, Jill Terrill, Uyen Tran and Carolyn Wilkinson-Reid. A special thank you to non-members who helped with order-taking, baking, packing and cleaning: Eve Brown, Suzanne Brown-Stevenson, Walter Durante, Judith Hazlett, Teresa Khidir, and Doug Snider. We all enjoyed working and laughing together. If I have forgotten anyone, please forgive me. And last, but certainly not least, thank you to Father Shawn and Father Stéphane for their enthusiastic support of all our initiatives. We plan to repeat this very successful fundraiser next Thanksgiving. Ellen Hawman, President.

## St Mary's Cathedral Refugee Sponsorship

Three very important items of Good News:

- 1. We have received the final government approval for our refugee family to come to Canada.** However, we will not be told exactly when our family is coming! They could come in November, December, January, or February. We do not expect to get more than 10-14 days' notice of when the family is coming. What we do know right now is that this family of 11 from Burundi is definitely coming to Kingston.
- 2. We have completed our fundraising.** Yes, you read that right!! After four short weeks we have raised just over \$51,000.00 That amount more than meets the anticipated funds required for this family. Your generosity towards this project is astounding and truly humbling. God Bless you all!!!
- 3. That being said there are still opportunities for you to participate.** a) Seven people have come forward and said they would like to sponsor clothing one child each. That means we are looking for four more sponsors, two of the children and the two parents, one of whom you would be welcome to sponsor clothing them initially after their arrival in Kingston. If you would like to provide clothing for one of our Burundian family please contact Angela at [stmarysrefugee@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysrefugee@gmail.com)  
b) We are still looking for more donations for the home that the family will eventually reside in. Please direct possible enquiries to Ellen Hawman at [ellen.hawman@sympatico.ca](mailto:ellen.hawman@sympatico.ca) All donations of goods will receive a tax receipt for their estimated value. c) That family will need a great deal of help getting used to life in Kingston and there will be many, many opportunities for you to assist them in their new life here. Let Angela know if you are willing to volunteer once the Burundian families arrive.

**Coins for Life:** Thank you most sincerely for your generous donations through our Coins for Life fundraiser over the summer months. We appreciate your financial support and the commitment that you make to help save the lives of God's precious preborn babies. CLC Kingston will be able to continue financially and with your prayers through the coming months.

**Holy Cross will be hosting its annual "Jamaica Fish Fry"** on Friday, Oct. 30 from 3:30–6:30 pm. "All You Can Eat" Fish & Chip Dinner or Take-Out for \$15.00. All proceeds to the 2016 Holy Cross Jamaica Mission Trip. Call Chris Forster at the school (613) 384-1919 for information. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

**Forming Intentional Disciples Workshop:** Sat. Nov. 28th, 2015; 9 am – 4 pm Providence Spirituality Centre \$30 registration fee which includes materials and lunch. This workshop is based on the best-selling book by Sherry Weddell. It will be facilitated by Deacon Mark Cesnik, a member of Sherry's St. Catherine of Siena Institute in Colorado. An interactive day on how we can awaken our personal faith in Christ and become intentional disciples that effectively evangelize others. To register contact Nadia Gundert at [youth@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca](mailto:youth@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca) or call 613-484-2446. This Workshop is sponsored by the Youth Office of the Archdiocese, the Diaconate Formation and St. Mary's Cathedral.

**SEASONS OF HOPE — SEASON 2: SUPPORT FOR THE BEREAVED:** Mondays; November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. Our Lord assured us that those who mourn are blessed, and that they shall be comforted. Seasons of Hope offers the bereaved an opportunity to come together to share in God's love, with support from our faith community, we can gain insight into our unique journeys of grief and find healing and spiritual growth. Seasons of Hope is centered on Jesus Christ and grounded in the healing wisdom, traditions and practices of our Catholic faith. Each year many face the loss of loved ones who are members of our parish. Our Catholic tradition provides funeral support and now Seasons of Hope can carry that caring spirit into the difficult period that follows when grief can overwhelm. It serves those of you who mourn loved ones from outside our parish community. For those searching for hope, a Seasons of Hope group is a nurturing link to the Church, our Loving God and other people of faith who are also mourning. In November we will explore Season 2, the second Season in this program. The Seasons may be started in any order so it is not necessary to have taken Season 1 to join this group. Come and be comforted. Please register with the parish office, Suzanne at 613-546-5521 Ext 3. By advance registration only.

### **Annual Liturgical Conference: The Jubilee of Mercy: "Merciful like the Father"**

The Holy Father, Pope Francis has announced an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy that will be celebrated from the feast of The Immaculate Conception, 8 Dec. 2015, to the Solemnity of Christ the King, 20 Nov. 2016. In preparation for this special year of grace, the Archdiocese of Kingston invites you to our Annual Liturgical Conference which will focus on the meaning of the Jubilee Year. Please join us on **Fri. evening, 13 Nov. 7–9 pm, and Sat., 14 Nov. 9 am–3:30 pm**, at the Providence Spirituality Centre, 1200 Princess St. Kingston. Facilitator: Father John Hibbard, Chair of the Archdiocesan Liturgy Commission. Registration deadline: Fri. 30 Oct. Commuters: \$ 35, overnight: \$ 75. To register, please visit the Archdiocese of Kingston website at <http://www.romancatholic.kingston.on.ca/>, or contact Mariola Gozdek at the Diocesan Liturgy Office, 613-548-4461 ext.114, [liturgy@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca](mailto:liturgy@romancatholic.kingston.on.ca)



This Voters' Guide was found at <http://www.politicalresponsibility.com/voterguide.htm> . It is a product of the website for Catholic Answers [http://www.catholic.com/sites/default/files/voters\\_guide\\_for\\_serious\\_catholics.pdf](http://www.catholic.com/sites/default/files/voters_guide_for_serious_catholics.pdf)

Although it is once again this week an American publication it is an excellent compilation of Catholic Teaching on Voting which is a Moral Responsibility.

## **Voter's Guide for Serious Catholics**

### **HOW THIS VOTER'S GUIDE HELPS YOU**

This voter's guide helps you cast your vote in an informed manner consistent with Catholic moral teaching. It helps you avoid choosing candidates who endorse policies that cannot be reconciled with moral norms that used to be held by all Christians. On most issues that come before voters or legislators, the task is selecting the most effective strategy among several morally good options. A Catholic can take one side or the other and not act contrary to the faith. Most matters do not have a "Catholic position." But some issues concern "non-negotiable" moral principles that do not admit of exception or compromise. One's position either accords with those principles or does not. No one endorsing the wrong side of these issues can be said to act in accord with the Church's moral norms.

This voter's guide identifies five issues involving "non-negotiable" moral values in current politics and helps you narrow down the list of acceptable candidates, whether they are running for national, state, or local offices. You should avoid to the greatest extent possible voting for candidates who endorse or promote intrinsically evil policies. As far as possible, you should vote for those who promote policies in line with the moral law.

In many elections there are situations where all of the available candidates take morally unacceptable positions on one or more of the "non-negotiable" issues. In such situations, a citizen will be called upon to make tough choices. In those cases, citizens must vote in the way that will most limit the harm that would be done by the available candidates.

In this guide we will look first at the principles that should be applied in clear-cut races where there is an unambiguously good moral choice. These same principles help lay the groundwork for what to do in situations that are more difficult. Knowing the principles that are applied in ideal situations is useful when facing problematic ones, so as you review the principles you should keep in mind that they often must be applied in situations where the choice is more difficult. At the end of the guide we will offer practical advice about how to decide to cast your vote in those cases.

### **YOUR ROLE AS A CATHOLIC VOTER**

Catholics have a moral obligation to promote the common good through the exercise of their voting privileges (cf. CCC 2240). It is not just civil authorities who have responsibility for a country. "Service of the common good require[s] citizens to fulfill their roles in the life of the political community" (CCC 2239). This means citizens should participate in the political process at the ballot box. But voting cannot be arbitrary. "A well-formed Christian conscience does not permit one to vote for a political program or an individual law that contradicts the fundamental contents of faith and morals" (CPL 4). A citizen's vote most often means voting for a candidate who will be the one directly voting on laws or programs. But being one step removed from law-making doesn't let citizens off the hook, since morality requires that we avoid doing evil to the greatest extent possible, even indirectly.

Some things are always wrong, and no one may deliberately vote in favor of them. Legislators, who have a direct vote, may not support these evils in legislation or programs. Citizens support these evils indirectly if they vote in favor of candidates who propose to advance them. Thus, to the greatest extent possible, Catholics must avoid voting for any candidate who intends to support programs or laws that are intrinsically evil. When all of the candidates endorse morally harmful policies, citizens must vote in a way that will limit the harm likely to be done.

### **FIVE NON-NEGOTIABLES**

These five current issues concern actions that are intrinsically evil and must never be promoted by the law. Intrinsically evil actions are those that fundamentally conflict with the moral law and can never be deliberately performed under any circumstances. It is a serious sin to deliberately endorse or promote any of these actions, and no candidate who really wants to advance the common good will support any action contrary to the non-negotiable principles involved in these issues.

#### **1. Abortion**

The Church teaches that, regarding a law permitting abortions, it is "never licit to obey it, or to take part in a propaganda campaign in favor of such a law, or to vote for it" (EV 73). Abortion is the intentional and direct killing of an innocent human being, and therefore it is a form of homicide. The unborn child is always an innocent party, and no law may permit the taking of his life. Even when a child is conceived through rape or incest, the fault is not the child's, who should not suffer death for others' sins.

#### **2. Euthanasia**

Often disguised by the name "mercy killing," euthanasia is also a form of homicide. No person has a right to take his own life, and no one has the right to take the life of any innocent person. In euthanasia, the ill or elderly are killed, by action or omission,

out of a misplaced sense of compassion, but true compassion cannot include intentionally doing something intrinsically evil to another person (cf. EV 73).

### **3. Embryonic Stem Cell Research**

Human embryos are human beings. "Respect for the dignity of the human being excludes all experimental manipulation or exploitation of the human embryo" (CRF 4b). Recent scientific advances show that often medical treatments that researchers hope to develop from experimentation on embryonic stem cells can be developed by using adult stem cells instead. Adult stem cells can be obtained without doing harm to the adults from whom they come. Thus there is no valid medical argument in favor of using embryonic stem cells. And even if there were benefits to be had from such experiments, they would not justify destroying innocent embryonic humans.

### **4. Human Cloning**

"Attempts . . . for obtaining a human being without any connection with sexuality through 'twin fission,' cloning, or parthenogenesis are to be considered contrary to the moral law, since they are in opposition to the dignity both of human procreation and of the conjugal union" (RHL I:6). Human cloning also involves abortion because the "rejected" or "unsuccessful" embryonic clones are destroyed, yet each clone is a human being.

### **5. Homosexual "Marriage"**

True marriage is the union of one man and one woman. Legal recognition of any other union as "marriage" undermines true marriage, and legal recognition of homosexual unions actually does homosexual persons a disfavor by encouraging them to persist in what is an objectively immoral arrangement. "When legislation in favor of the recognition of homosexual unions is proposed for the first time in a legislative assembly, the Catholic lawmaker has a moral duty to express his opposition clearly and publicly and to vote against it. To vote in favor of a law so harmful to the common good is gravely immoral" (UHP 10).

## **WHICH POLITICAL OFFICES SHOULD I WORRY ABOUT?**

Laws are passed by the legislature, enforced by the executive branch, and interpreted by the judiciary. This means you should scrutinize any candidate for the legislature, anyone running for an executive office, and anyone nominated for the bench. This is true not only at the national level but also at the state and local levels. True, the lesser the office, the less likely the office holder will take up certain issues. Your city council, for example, perhaps will never take up the issue of human cloning but may take up issues connected with abortion clinics. It is important that you evaluate candidates in light of each non-negotiable moral issue that will come before them in the offices they are seeking. Few people achieve high office without first holding a lower office. Some people become congressional representatives, senators, or presidents without having been elected to a lesser office. But most representatives, senators, and presidents started their political careers at the local level. The same is true for state lawmakers. Most of them began on city councils and school boards and worked their way up the political ladder. Tomorrow's candidates for higher offices will come mainly from today's candidates for lower offices. It is therefore prudent to apply comparable standards to local candidates. One should seek to elect to lower offices candidates who support Christian morality so that they will have a greater ability to be elected to higher offices where their moral stances may come directly into play.

## **HOW TO DETERMINE A CANDIDATE'S POSITION**

1. The higher the office, the easier this will be. Congressional representatives and senators, for example, repeatedly have seen these issues come before them and so have taken positions on them. Often the same can be said at the state level. In either case, learning a candidate's position can be as easy as reading newspaper or magazine articles, looking up his views on the Internet, or studying one of the many printed candidate surveys that are distributed at election time.
2. It is often more difficult to learn the views of candidates for local offices because few of them have an opportunity to consider legislation on such things as abortion, cloning, and the sanctity of marriage. But these candidates, being local, often can be contacted directly or have local campaign offices that will explain their positions.
3. If you cannot determine a candidate's views by other means, do not hesitate to write directly to the candidate, asking for his position on the issues covered above.

## **HOW NOT TO VOTE**

1. Do not vote based just on your political party affiliation, your earlier voting habits, or your family's voting tradition. Years ago, these may have been trustworthy ways to determine whom to vote for, but today they are often not reliable. You need to look at the stands each candidate takes. This means that you may end up casting votes for candidates from more than one party.
2. Do not cast your vote based on candidates' appearance, personality, or "media savvy." Some attractive, engaging, and "sound-bite-capable" candidates endorse intrinsic evils, while other candidates, who may be plain-looking, uninspiring, and ill at ease in front of cameras, endorse legislation in accord with basic Christian principles.
3. Do not vote for candidates simply because they declare themselves to be Catholic. Unfortunately, many self-described Catholic candidates reject basic Catholic moral teaching.

4. Do not choose among candidates based on "What's in it for me?" Make your decision based on which candidates seem most likely to promote the common good, even if you will not benefit directly or immediately from the legislation they propose.
5. Do not vote for candidates who are right on lesser issues but will vote wrongly on key moral issues. One candidate may have a record of voting in line with Catholic values except for, say, euthanasia. Such a voting record is a clear signal that the candidate should not be chosen by a Catholic voter unless the other candidates have voting records even less in accord with these moral norms.

### **HOW TO VOTE**

1. For each office, first determine how each candidate stands on each of the issues that will come before him and involve non-negotiable principles.
2. Rank the candidates according to how well their positions align with these non-negotiable moral principles.
3. Give preference to candidates who do not propose positions that contradict these principles.
4. Where every candidate endorses positions contrary to non-negotiable principles, choose the candidate likely to do the least harm. If several are equal, evaluate them based on their views on other, lesser issues.
5. Remember that your vote today may affect the offices a candidate later achieves.

### **WHEN THERE IS NO "ACCEPTABLE" CANDIDATE**

In some political races, each candidate takes a wrong position on one or more issues involving non-negotiable moral principles. In such a case you may vote for the candidate who takes the fewest such positions or who seems least likely to be able to advance immoral legislation, or you may choose to vote for no one.

A vote cast in such a situation is not morally the same as a positive endorsement for candidates, laws, or programs that promote intrinsic evils: It is only tolerating a lesser evil to avoid an even greater evil. As Pope John Paul II indicated regarding a situation where it is not possible to overturn or completely defeat a law allowing abortion, "an elected official, whose absolute personal opposition to procured abortion was well known, could licitly support proposals aimed at *limiting the harm* done by such a law and at lessening its negative consequences at the level of general opinion and public morality"(EV 73; also CPL 4).

Catholics must strive to put in place candidates, laws, and political programs that are in full accord with non-negotiable moral values. Where a perfect candidate, law, or program is not on the table, we are to choose the best option, the one that promotes the greatest good and entails the least evil. Not voting may sometimes be the only moral course of action, but we must consider whether not voting actually promotes good and limits evil in a specific instance. The role of citizens and elected officials is to promote intrinsic moral values as much as possible today while continuing to work toward better candidates, laws, and programs in the future.

### **THE ROLE OF YOUR CONSCIENCE**

Conscience is like an alarm. It warns you when you are about to do something that you know is wrong. It does not itself determine what is right or wrong. For your conscience to work properly, it must be properly informed—that is, you must inform yourself about what is right and what is wrong. Only then will your conscience be a trusted guide. Unfortunately, today many Catholics have not formed their consciences adequately regarding key moral issues. The result is that their consciences do not "sound off" at appropriate times, including on Election Day. A well-formed conscience will never contradict Catholic moral teaching. For that reason, if you are unsure where your conscience is leading you when at the ballot box, place your trust in the unwavering moral teachings of the Church. (The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is an excellent source of authentic moral teaching.)

### **WHEN YOU ARE DONE WITH THIS VOTER'S GUIDE**

Please do not keep this voter's guide to yourself. Read it, learn from it, and prepare your selection of candidates based on it. Then give this voter's guide to a friend, and ask your friend to read it and pass it on to others. The more people who vote in accord with basic moral principles, the better off our country will be.

### **ABBREVIATIONS**

CCC *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

CPL Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, *Doctrinal Notes on Some Questions regarding the Participation of Catholics in Political Life*

CRF Pontifical Council for the Family, *Charter of the Rights of the Family*

EV John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae* (The Gospel of Life)

RHL Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation*

UHP Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Considerations regarding Proposals to Give Legal Recognition to Unions between Homosexual Persons*



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