

Some important points

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship:

A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States

1. Duty to be guided by Church's moral teachings

As citizens, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to a political party or interest group. §14

2. Obligation to form your conscience in accordance with Church teachings

Catholics have a serious and lifelong obligation to form their consciences in accord with human reason and the teaching of the Church. Conscience is not something that allows us to justify doing whatever we want, nor is it a mere "feeling" about what we should or should not do... §17

There are some things we must never do, as individuals or as a society, because they are always incompatible with love of God and neighbor... These are called "intrinsically evil" actions. They must always be rejected and opposed and must never be supported or condoned. ... §22

3. The Right to Life is not just one issue among others.

The direct and intentional destruction of innocent human life from the moment of conception until natural death is always wrong and is not just one issue among many. It must always be opposed. §28

some issues involve principles that can never be abandoned, such as the fundamental right to life and marriage as the union of one man and one woman §63

Those who knowingly, willingly, and directly support public policies or legislation that undermine fundamental moral principles cooperate with evil. §31

Abortion, the deliberate killing of a human being before birth, is never morally acceptable and must always be opposed. §64

The purposeful taking of human life by **assisted suicide and euthanasia** is not an act of mercy, but an unjustifiable assault on human life. §64

A President will only serve for 4 or 8 years, but the justices He/She appoints to the Supreme Court serve for life.