

Church of St. Thomas More

A Roman Catholic Parish in the Diocese of San Diego

Spirituality † Tradition † Community



Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor

Deacon John Fredette

Deacon Thomas A. Goeltz

1450 South Melrose Drive, Oceanside, CA 92056

760-758-4100 • 760-758-4165 fax

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30am-12:00noon and 12:30-4:00pm

parishoffice@stmoside.org • www.stmoside.org



StThomasMoreRCC



Mass Schedule

Saturday at 5:00pm

Sunday at 8:30am and 10:30am

Tuesday-Friday at 8:15am

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday-Friday, 6:30am-7:30pm

Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday, 4:00-4:30pm

October 7, 2012 • Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pastor's Column

Faithful Citizenship—The General Election of November 6, 2012

In a few weeks, elections across our country and in our state will take place. Hopefully, all of us are beginning to prepare to vote by gathering information regarding the various candidates and the various propositions that are on the ballot.

Responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation...

By our baptism, Catholics are committed to following Jesus Christ and to be "salt for the earth, light for the nations."

As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, "It is necessary that all participate according to his position and role, in promoting the common good."

This is inherent in the dignity of the human person...As far as possible citizens should take an active part in public life."

—nos. 1913-1915, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*,
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

In exercising "Faithful Citizenship," we are mindful that in the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue; participation in the political process is a moral obligation.

As Catholics, we never endorse any specific candidates nor do we endorse any specific political parties. And we are mindful that neither major party, the Republican Party nor the Democratic Party is fully "Pro-life" in the Catholic Church's understanding of "Pro-life."

As we vote then for specific candidates, we need to be examining them through the Catholic lens of "Pro-life," and then, according to our conscience, vote for the candidates and party that exhibits best the "Pro-life" characteristics of the Catholic Church.

Always be mindful that no one can tell you how to vote! The Magisterium of the Church will inform you of what is the

(Continued on page 2)

Forming
Consciences



Second Annual Men's Retreat:
October 12-14 in Julian—see page
5 for more information or contact
Deacon John at 760-758-4100
x132.

Check the *Calendar Highlights* on
page 3 each week for a quick list of
upcoming activities at our Parish. For
more details, visit www.stmoside.org
and click on Schedules and Calendars.



Opportunity to Help Local Families in Need



North County Solutions for Change women and children's shelter needs volunteers for meal preparation, servers, and donations (food and paper goods). STM has committed to providing one meal per month for this ministry. In this way we answer the call of Jesus to feed the hungry and this is in our neighborhood. Any help you can provide is welcome!

Organizations as well as individuals are invited to participate with portions or entire meal preparation, drinks, desserts, and/or monetary contributions to offset the cost for those able to cook. Please prayerfully consider if you are able to help with this important ministry and call if you can help with one of the following available dates:

2013
April 28
May 26
June 23
August 25
September 22
October 27
December 22

For more information, contact Kevin & Lyn Leahy at 760-643-0872 or k Leahy12@cox.net.

Community Service Numbers:
2-1-1 for human services information; 5-1-1 for traffic

Pastor's Column *(continued from page 1)*

Catholic position, and encourage you to vote accordingly, but when you are in the voter's booth, you, in the presence of God, with an informed conscience, must vote according to the direction of your conscience.

Conscience is supreme, and it holds a most sacred place within Catholic Tradition.

Although the Catholic Church does not endorse specific political parties nor specific candidates, She does, at times, endorse specific propositions that may be on the ballot.

This year the Catholic Conference of Catholic Bishops has endorsed two of the eleven propositions that will appear on the November ballot.

These will be discussed in the weeks to come.

Included in the Bulletin today is a Voters' Guide that has been prepared by the Diocese of San Diego. Please take time to review it, as you prepare to vote in November.

Take time in the coming weeks to become an informed voter. Hopefully, the inclusion of the Voters' Guide in the Bulletin today will be helpful to you in becoming informed and voting conscientiously.

The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society...is proper to the lay faithful. As citizens of the State, they are called to take part in public life in a personal capacity. The mission of the lay faithful is therefore to configure social life correctly, respecting its legitimate autonomy and cooperating with other citizens according to their respective competencies and fulfilling their own responsibility.

—*Deus Caritas Est*, #28, Pope Benedict XVI, 2006



More News from Our Town Crier! Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

The STM Gala Committee presented Fr. Mike with a \$4,000 check, bringing our total 2012 gift to \$64,000 for St. Thomas More!

Thanks to all who participated in the Pastor's Excursion/Dinner Cruise on the William D. Evans Sternwheeler on August 26. It was a terrific afternoon! We're already taking reservations for our September 29, 2013

event. Reservation envelopes are in the Parish Office and on Information Table, with an early bird sign up bonus opportunity!

We are grateful to all for the many ways in which you have made the "extended" 2012 STM Gala such a success!

To see more photos, visit www.stmoside.org and click on Event Pictures.



Readings for the Week Ahead

Sunday Year B; Weekday Year II
Readings online at www.usccb.org.

Sunday, October 7 (140)

*Twenty-seventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time*

Genesis 2:18-24

Psalm 128:1-6

Hebrews 2:9-11

Mark 10:2-16

Monday, October 8 (461)

Galatians 1:6-12

Psalm 111:1b-2,7-10c

Luke 10:25-37

Tuesday, October 9 (462)

*Denis, bishop, martyr and his
companions, martyrs,
John Leonardi, priest*

Galatians 1:13-24

Psalm 139:1b-3,13-15

Luke 10:38-42

Wednesday, October 10 (463)

Galatians 2:1-2,7-14

Psalm 117:1bc, 2

Luke 11:1-4

Thursday, October 11 (464)

Galatians 3:1-5

Luke 1:69-75 (Psalm)

Luke 11:5-13

Friday, October 12 (465)

Galatians 3:7-14

Psalm 111:1b-6

Luke 11:15-26

Saturday, October 13 (466)

Galatians 3:22-29

Psalm 105:2-7

Luke 11:27-28

Sunday, October 14 (143)

*Twenty-eighth Sunday
in Ordinary Time*

Wisdom 7:7-11

Psalm 90:12-17

Hebrews 4:12-13

Mark 10:17-30

Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 6, 5:00pm
Vivian Doering ☩

Sunday, October 7, 8:30am
Joseph De Stout ☩

Sunday, October 7, 10:30am
George Ken Walker ☩

Tuesday, October 9, 8:15am
Terence Flanagan ☩

Wednesday, October 10, 8:15am
Dixie Ritter ☩

Thursday, October 11, 8:15am
Pernetta Franklin ☩

Friday, October 12, 8:15am
Elizabeth Nead ☩

Saturday, October 13, 5:00pm
Larry Dorsa ☩

Sunday, October 14, 8:30am
Robert M. Butler ☩

Sunday, October 14, 10:30am
Nina Garrisi ☩

Prayer List *(Call 760-758-4100 x102 to add a name for four weeks.)*

Mary Alexander
Laura Allenfort
Lucia Ambriz
The Ariz Family
Mary Balli
Alexandra Banwell
Jose Luis Barbosa
Patricia Barbour
Ray & Jeanne Bartman
Clarice Bednarz
John Bennici
Regina Bentz
Lisa Berg
Roseanne Berg
George "Whitey" Betus
Mary Betz
Betty Jean Bielich
The Bosak Family
Lynda Brady
Roy Bristol
Monica Broussard
Janet Brown
Todd Brown
Anita & Bill Buerger
Bridget Buford
The Bunuelos Family
Shelby Campbell
Brianna Campos
Claudia Caplinger
Paul Cassidy
The Cervantes & Hamasaki
Families
The Christopherson Family
Dick Clarke
Darlene Cole
Carl & James Coleman
Thomas Cornwell & Family
Eileen & Gary Crafton
Lené Crowe
Karen Flaherty Daley
The Darcy Family
Beverly de Gelder
Stephanie de Villeneuve
Brendan Devlin
Ryan Devlin
Judith DiMatteo
Art Dossman
Dave Dossman
John Drazkowski, Jr.
Sharon Evans
The Fiore Family
Joseph Floryance
Ryan Flum
Larry Fortier
Mike Franchino
Eugene Franciscus
Kathryn Franklin
Joe Freire
Carmen Garcia
Jack & Marge Gillen
Rick Gonzalez
The Gough Family
Rosemary Haefelin
Nan Hallbick
The Harker Family
Elizabeth Harrison
Lilian Hills
Susan Hori
Iolanda Iacobelli
Linda Iacobelli Bennett
Sue Johnston
Paul Kennedy
Peggy Kiernan
Debbie Kinney
The Kirk Family
Dewey Kolbo
Andrea Krohn
Helen Kuhn
Lillian Lachance
The Lamelin Family
Christopher & Roland Lawrence
Brandon LeBlanc
Jeremiah Lemus
Claudia Leué
Dave Leué
The Paul Leué Family
Ashley Load
Cassandra Loretto
Lauren Loretto
James MacArthur
Joaquin Maldonado
Chandler May

Ines McGee
Bob McWilliams
Kalei Mendiola
Bill Metzger
Phyllis Minaya
June Mitchell
Jose Montgomery
Nancy Moore
Conrad Murphy
Margie Myers
Bernadette Padovan
Ed Paprocki
Lupe Casas Pelletier
Helen Pingtella
Marilyn Pirkola
Douglas Price-Williams
Maria Elena Quiroz
Barbara Ramm
Mrs. Jack (Shirley) Riley
Rita Ritchie
Adela Rivera
Elena Rivera
The Robinson Family
Maria Rogers
Dorothy Rouse
The Russo Family
Dan Ryan
Kimberly Schlunt
Linda Schmidt
The Douglas E. Schulte Family
Pete Serle & Family
Bob, Joan, & Julie Shea
Elizabeth Shirzad
Richard Sikora
Jeanne Sisson
Beth Snyder
Mike Snyder
Nick Soltau
Fred & Gilda Spiegel
Derek, Vanessa, & Elba Spizewski
Dorothy Staehr
Ted Stanislawski
Pete Sullivan
David Sweet
Tommy & Ginger Thompson
Valerie Thompson
Sarah Tillinghast
William Tompson
Stephen Toth, Jr.
Mary Tysko & Family
Barbara Upson
Ethel & Bob Vanderhagen
Robert Vasquez
Silvana Vettese
Vanessa Vitiello
Barbara Voelpel
Kevin Watson-Graff
John Whitton
Helen Wodyka
Erin Young
Patricia Zavala

Deployed Military

*As a faith community let us pray for
all who serve our country in these
troubled times. We pray especially
for those connected to our Parish
who have been deployed:*

Gunnery Sgt. Fernando Andrade, Jr.
1st Lt. Jeffrey Bauer, USMC
PFC John Brandone
Corp. Willie Deel
Chaplain Van Dinh
Lance Corp. Brandon Doyle, USMC
StfSgt Evans Formica, USMC
Grant Fischer
MSGT Steve Gallegos, USMC
Sgt. Alex Garcia
BM2 Bobby Hartdegen, US Navy
Staff Sgt. Travis M. Meyers, USAF
2nd Lt. Janelle Peske, USMC
Pvt. 2 Jess Phillips, US Army
Sr. Airman Robert Spear, USAF
Tyler Timmerman, US Army
Sgt. Charles Watts, USMC
Major Seth Wolcott, USMC

Calendar Highlights

More details at www.stmoside.org,
Schedule and Calendar

Oct 7 Liturgy of the Word for
Children at 8:30am Mass
Oct 7 RE.A.CH Classes at
Church, including High
School
Oct 7 Blessing of Animals
Oct 7 Catholicism Series
Oct 9-10 Restaurant Fundraiser at
Famous Dave's BBQ
Oct 12-14 Men's Fellowship Retreat
Oct 14 Liturgy of the Word for
Children at 8:30am and
10:30am Masses
Oct 14 *What to Do in an
Emergency If You Don't
Know CPR* Presentation
Oct 14 RE.A.CH High School
Classes
Oct 20-21 Women's Guild Bake Sale
and Quilt Items Sale
Oct 21 RE.A.CH Classes at
Church, including High
School
Oct 23-24 Restaurant Fundraiser at
El Torito
Oct 27 Life Walk in San Diego
Oct 28 Knights of Columbus
Breakfast
Nov 3-4 Knights of Columbus
Tootsie Roll Drive
Nov 10-11 St. Bonaventure
Clothing Drive
Nov 18 Hymn Festival
Nov 22 Thanksgiving Dinner at
STM

2013

Jan 6 Stewardship Appreciation
Reception
Jan 12-31 Stewardship Awareness/
Renewal
Jan 25 Preview of Interior Church
Elements
Apr 21 Towers of Faith Reception

Pray for Women Religious

Please join us in praying for the
women religious who serve in the
Diocese of San Diego. They have
been assigned to days of the year in
alphabetical order.

October 08 Sr. Esther Segura, HCJS
October 09 Sr. Mariacruz Serrano Mier, MGSpS
October 10 Sr. Patricia Shaffer, RSCJ
October 11 Sr. Madeline Shayota, DMI
October 12 Sr. Regina Shin, RSCJ
October 13 Sr. Paula Smith, MMM
October 14 Sr. Suzanne Snyder, SHCJ

Welcome New Parishioners

William & Kiyoko Hokama
Bernie Ptak

In Memoriam



Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Trinidad Bunuelos, who died on September 26. Her Funeral Mass will be celebrated in Los Angeles. Please keep her nephew, Parish staff member Joe Garcia, and her family in your prayers.

Betty Ariz, who died on September 45. Her funeral was on October 4. Please keep her family in your prayers.

Don Robinson, who died on September 28. His Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, October 11, at 11:00am at St. Thomas More. Please keep his wife, Anna, and his family in your prayers.

May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

"Did You Know" Collection for September 2012

\$9,155

Restaurant Fundraiser for September 2012

Nucci's	\$607.28
Mortony's	\$195.00
Chili's	\$180.00

Vocations

In today's Gospel, Jesus says "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." Do you have a calling to gather God's children into his Church as a priest, deacon, or religious and wish to explore that calling? If so, contact Deacon Tom at thomasgoeltz@aol.com or 760-727-8442.

STM Scrip News

It's that time of year! Ralph's requires everyone to sign up their Preferred Customer card in order to receive the Community Rewards for St. Thomas More every year in the fall. Please do this on line or see the folks on the plaza to give you instructions. Once you sign up, all you do is shop, and the Building Fund reaps the benefits.

Check online for an updated Scrip list and online ordering system: www.stmoside.org, Contact Us, then Scrip.

Every Scrip purchase helps the Building Fund!

Remember, Scrip is available for purchase FOUR ways!

1. Monday-Friday during business hours in the Parish Office
2. Online at www.stmoside.org, click on Contact Us, then click on Scrip
3. Email at scrip@stmoside.org
4. Phone at 760-758-4100 x150

Orders may be picked up after Mass on the weekend or at the Parish Office during the week.

Social Ministries/Outreach

Voter Registration

STM will conduct voter registration after the Masses this weekend and for the next two weekends. Please register if you have moved since the last election, or if you will turn 18 years of age by November 6, 2012.

Parish Social Justice Committee: "Get Out the Vote"

SDOP (San Diego Organizing Project), of which our Parish is a member, is participating in a national PICO (People Improving Communities through Organizing) project encouraging everyone to vote, especially those in neighborhoods with low voting records. The theme "Your Vote Is Your Voice" reminds everyone that we have an obligation to make our voices heard as we live out the Gospel in the world today. Politicians know which of their districts have strong or weak voting turnouts and respond accordingly. Voting power influences politicians in determining the quality of schools, strength of public safety, and level of economic opportunities in any given community!

Members of our Parish are joining with members of St. Francis Parish in door-to-door canvassing in Vista every weekend up to Election Day. If you would like to participate or need further information, please contact Sr. Maureen at 760-758-4100 x131 or maureenb@stmoside.org.

***Responsible Citizenship is a virtue,
and participation in political life is a moral obligation.***

*—Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

St. Bonaventure Clothing Drive

A clothing drive to benefit the St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and School will be conducted November 10-11. Begin now to save your clean, gently-used, clothing, blankets, and jackets. Ask your friends and neighbors to save, too. The clothing drive is conducted by the Knights of Columbus.

The Mission is solely dependent on donations to support its operations. St. Thomas More Parishioners have been a major supporter through our annual clothing drives. Donated items are given directly to residents of the Navajo Reservation at the Mission's annual Christmas dinner and give-away event. Any remaining items are placed in their thrift shop.

Walking Ministry

Join the Walking Ministry on Tuesday mornings at 8:00am starting from the Parish Center parking lot. For more information, contact Diane Pal at 760-815-2519.

What to Do in a Medical Emergency If You Don't Know CPR

Sunday, October 21, 1:00pm on the lower level of the Parish Center. A 90-minute PowerPoint presentation that explains how to recognize an emergency even before a collapse, how to properly and quickly get trained medical responders to the scene and what to do while waiting for the ambulance to arrive.

Parish Events

Women's Guild News

It's not too late to join us for our next General Meeting on October 8 at 11:00am on the lower level of the Parish Center. Jerry Peralta will be giving us "Baking Tips for the Bake Sale" and other suggestions. You will be entertained and get a surprise "taste test." Call me, Vera Bayliss at 760-295-0059 or Siggie Ogan at 760-994-4727 to make a reservation. Bring a guest if you like. Expect a great lunch as well. We're cooking for you.

Also on October 20-21 we will be holding our semi-annual Bake Sale and our one-time "Small Quilted Items Sale." Bake Sale treats are donated by Women's Guild members and members of our Parish. There is a treat on the table for you! Our quilted items have all been hand made and donated. Remember all those birthdays ahead and Christmas, too! They will make great gifts. Please stop by our tables before or after each Mass. We welcome you all and appreciate your support.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

—Vera Bayliss, President

Spirited Seniors Sponsor a Theater Trip

The Spirited Seniors are sponsoring a trip to the Broadway Theater in Vista for the hilarious play "Over the River and through the Woods" on Sunday, October 28 at 1:00pm.

The price for each ticket is \$16.50. Thirty tickets have been reserved. Deadline for reservations is October 19. Carpooling will be available. Lunch is on your own with friends. Make your check out to "STM Spirited Seniors." Place it in an envelope marked "Spirited Seniors Broadway Play" and return it to the Offertory collection or the Parish Office, Box 12. Please include the reservation form from the flyer or include the following information: name, name(s) of guest(s), phone number, email, number of tickets, total enclosed, and whether you can drive or need a ride. For more information, contact Judy Buoniconti 760-758-5113.

Scout Venturing at St. Thomas More

Orientation and formation meeting, Tuesday, October 16, 7:00pm on the lower level of the Parish Center. For young men and women 14-20 years. Explore the outdoors, learn important practical life skills, build confidence, trust, and teamwork, and be purposefully Catholic. Questions? Contact Martin Zschoche at 7605180208 or mrzschoche@yahoo.com

Knights of Columbus Entertainment Books

The Knights of Columbus will be selling Entertainment Books for \$40 on the Plaza after weekend Masses, and the proceeds will go to helping our church and community. Please contact Matt Perun at 760-734-1934 if you are interested or have any questions.

Thanksgiving Is Coming!

Is your family out of town? Would you like the day off from cooking? Do you always have too much turkey left over?

Celebrate Thanksgiving Dinner with your St. Thomas More family! Spread the word, and look for your invitation in the October 21 bulletin!

2012 Phase 2.1 "... A Time to Build!"

October 2 Response Statistics

THREE Months to Go ~ WOW!		# of Families Responding
Total Responses	\$492,148	675
Still Needed	\$7,852	370
Total Goal	\$500,000	1,045
Total Collected	\$430,136	



† Thank you to all who have responded!

† **Special thanks for our 61 "Adopt a Family" gift donations and to all those households who have increased their dollar amounts in Phase 2.1.**

† **We ask the families who have not responded to this campaign to consider donating \$15/month through December. EVERY contribution helps!**

www.stmoside.org; click on Our New Church.

Chris Smith, Director of Stewardship and Development
760-758-4100 x120 or chriss@stmoside.org

Men's Fellowship Retreat

The St. Thomas More Men's Fellowship is having their second annual Men's Retreat on October 12-14 in Julian. If you attended last year's retreat, you know what a great time it was, and if you have never been before, come see what you have been missing. The theme of the retreat is based on Romans 7:18: "The will to do what is right is present within me, but in my sinful nature, the power to carry it out is not." Our featured speaker will be Cy Kellett. Get your registration form here and drop it off at the Parish: www.stmoside.org/men/MensFellowshipRetreat2012.pdf or call Deacon John Fredette for more information at 760-758-4100 x132.

Parish Potluck

Friday, October 26, at 6:00pm is the next Parish Potluck in the lower level of the Parish Center. Remember to bring your favorite main dish, salad, or dessert. Don't forget the wine! This is also a chance to enjoy old friends and make new friends. Please RSVP! Call Germaine Wilmott at 760-758-9949 or see her on the Plaza after Masses.

Looking for Information on the Catholic Faith?

Are you interested in learning more about Catholicism, becoming a Catholic, or returning to the Catholic Church after being away?

For information, call Kathleen Bell at 760-758-4100 x110.

Liturgy & Music

Worship God

Douglas Lynn
Director of Liturgy and Music
douglasl@stmoside.org; 760-758-4100 x140

ROSARIES FOR PEACE

Next week, on the second Sunday in October, our Diocese observes Rosaries for Peace Sunday. In preparation, here is some information on the Rosary and an introduction to the prayer.

Why Catholics Say the Rosary

The Rosary as we know it was developed in the Middle Ages. It evolved out of an ancient practice in which people who could not read scripture recited 150 Our Fathers for the 150 psalms. Strings of beads, called "pater-nosters," were used to keep track of the prayers.

Over time, this practice merged with the scriptural greeting to Mary ("Hail Mary, full of grace...") and with meditations on the lives of Christ and Mary. These meditations are called the Mysteries, and there are four of them that are used throughout the week.

The Joyful Mysteries are prayed on Mondays and Saturdays. The events surrounding the coming of Our Lord, God made human, are a cause for intense joy. We meditate on these mysteries asking Our Lady to help us discover the secret of Christian joy—the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the flesh.

The Luminous Mysteries are prayed on Thursdays. The public life of Our Lord reveals what the reign of God's Kingdom is like—both in the miracles he worked and in his preaching. We meditate on these mysteries asking Our Lady to help us to allow his light to shine in our darkness.

The Sorrowful Mysteries are prayed on Tuesdays and Fridays. The passion and death of Our Lord reveal how much God loves us. We meditate on these mysteries asking Our Lady to help us comprehend this love and to experience its life-giving power.

The Glorious Mysteries are prayed on Wednesdays and Sundays. In triumph, Our Lord empowers us to follow him courageously. We meditate on these mysteries asking



Our Lady to intercede for us, that we may always keep in mind the glory of God as we seek to do his will here on earth.

The Rosary is, at its heart, a biblical prayer, which is why scripture verses are used for meditation within each mystery.

Speed is not important. It is in the repetition of our prayers for the intercession of Our Lady, focused through our meditation on the mystery in question, that lead to a deeper understanding of God's plan for us.

If you are new to or unfamiliar with praying the Rosary, this might be a wonderful opportunity to find those beads and begin your journey. Mysteries await!

Upcoming Music



OCTOBER 14
28th Sunday in
Ordinary Time



5:00pm Mass

Praise Team

10:30am Mass

Cappella Choir
Sanctuary Choir



How to Pray the Rosary (each bead represents a step or prayer)

Begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Pray the Apostle's Creed while holding the crucifix.

Pray an Our Father. Pray three Hail Marys.

Pray the Glory Be, announce the first mystery, then pray an Our Father.

Pray ten Hail Marys (called a decade).

Pray the Glory Be and the Fatima Prayer.

Before each decade, announce the next mystery, followed by an Our Father. For each set of ten beads, pray ten Hail Mary's while meditating on the mystery.

After five decades are completed, pray the Hail, Holy Queen and the concluding Rosary Prayer.

"How to Pray the Rosary" pamphlets which include the Prayers and Mysteries are available in the Parish Office.

See page 11 for a Catholic gift shop if you need to purchase a Rosary.

Faith Formation

Teach and Live the Gospel

Kathleen Bell
Director of Faith Formation
kathleenb@stmoside.org; 760-758-4100 x110

This is a RE.A.CH week at Church

Catholicism Series

begins SUNDAY
5:00-6:30pm
on the upper level stage

Everyone is welcome, especially:

- ➔ Parents of RE.A.CH students
- ➔ Adult Confirmation Candidates

If you need childcare,
call or email Kathleen Bell.

This is our Happy Hour-and-a-half,
so bring your own
(non-alcoholic) beverage
and a snack to share.

- ✓ Meet other parents/parishioners,
- ✓ relax
- ✓ enjoy this beautiful presentation
of the basics of Catholicism.

PBJ Update

(Food for children at the Emergency Crisis Center)

2012 GOAL:	365 jars
Collected to date:	295 jars

Chocolate

The Youth Justice Foundation returns to the Plaza this weekend with a variety of 3.5 oz bars of Equal Exchange Fairly Traded Chocolate for \$4 each.



*Treat your taste buds,
support economic justice
and encourage our parish teens!*



Youth Ministry says THANKS!

After Sunday Masses, coffee and donuts are available for Parishioners to enjoy while visiting with one another.

This service is provided by our high school youth with the help of the sacristans. Special thanks to the Gisel and Novacek families who have been responsible for many months.

All items are 75¢, so many people pay with a dollar bill and say "keep the change." Please know that your generosity helps support the youth activities of our Parish.

Special thanks to Parishioner Jerry Peralta, who gets up at 4:00am on Sundays to bake fresh cinnamon rolls and other pastries. This is a free gift to our youth program and provides a delicious donut alternative.

MagnifiKid!

brings the Mass and prayer closer to the lives of children
(especially ages 6-12)

\$17 per subscription = STM bulk rate,
IF we have ten orders

TODAY is the deadline for ordering!

Stewardship & Development

Serve God's People

Chris Smith
Director of Stewardship & Development
chriss@stmoside.org; 758-4100 x120

Christian Stewardship No One Said Life Was Easy

It's no secret that married life isn't easy. Most of us are living proof of that. It takes a great deal of commitment and constant self-giving love to truly live out the vocation.

But it is not just married life that requires self-sacrifice and loving commitment.

The vocation of Christian discipleship, the vocation to which every one of us is called—married or single, clergy or layperson—requires that we give of ourselves in loving service, committing our lives to Christ forever.

We give of our time, our talents, and our treasure as a way to show The Lord that we love Him and that we want to give our lives to Him. He has given us so much; it is an honor for us to give ourselves to Him in return.

It is not an easy task, especially when society is encouraging us to live selfishly, to want more and more things, to look out for ourselves before others, etc.

Indeed, it is a higher calling to live for the Lord, to give rather than to want, and to lovingly put others first, and it is a life full of joyful rewards. In this, we will find true fulfillment!

—The Catholic Steward, Eric McArdle, October 2012 (with permission)



We all come from a variety of backgrounds, ethnicities, current economic conditions, and circumstances. Within our STM faith family and in our surrounding community, there are so many different stories to tell.

Most of us are very "busy" with work, family, commitments. In addition, Jesus asks us to help others. Certainly Jesus wants us to take care of our families. That is Christian Stewardship at work.

Take time this week to pray about opportunities to expand your service to help within the broader context of the church. This is often a family opportunity and a good example for our youth.

—Chris

"Anyone who proposes to do good must not expect people to roll stones out of their way, but must accept their lot calmly if they even roll a few more upon it."

—Albert Schweitzer

STM Vehicle Donation Program

Do you have a vehicle you want to donate?

The St. Thomas More program is easy!

Call us, and we'll have it picked up.

You get the tax deduction!

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Annual Catholic Appeal—We Made It!

Thanks to everyone who helped us reach our goal of \$48,000! If you haven't had a chance to contribute, it's not too late. 80% of any extra contributions will be returned to us—the other 20% will go to help Parishes in Imperial County.

This annual appeal from the Diocese is our opportunity to "pay it forward" and help other Parishes as we have been helped, as well as support Diocesan charitable outreach and education efforts. Your prayerful consideration is appreciated! Packets are available at the information table on the Plaza.

Collection for Week of September 29/30, 2012

Number of Registered Households	1,045
Offertory*	\$ 7,216.48
Offertory (Loose Collection)	1,389.00
Children's envelopes	3.00
Total	\$ 8,608.48

* Offertory envelopes, credit card withdrawals, automatic checking or savings account deductions (credit card and automatic bank account withdrawals are posted at STM on the 5th and/or 20th of each month).

Ways to Help Support Your Parish

We offer a variety of options for easier giving. In addition to the extra mail-back envelopes included in your packet, we offer automatic credit card withdrawal (Visa, MC, or Discover) and automatic checking/savings account deduction. For more information, contact the Parish Office at 760-758-4100 x100 or parishoffice@stmoside.org.

St. Francis and St. Thomas More Offertory Envelopes

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Any St. Thomas More Offertory Envelopes given to the offertory collection at St. Francis will be returned to St. Thomas More.

News and Information from the Larger Church

Volunteers Needed at Birth Choice of Oceanside—Training provided for those interested in volunteering as counselors for this pro-life, Christ-centered pregnancy resource center offering free pregnancy testing, ultrasound, and options counseling for women in crisis. For more information, contact Mary Rose Stearns at 760-434-5063 or mrstearns@birthchoice.net.

Lectures and Retreats at Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside—Visit www.sanluisrey.org or call 760-757-3659 for details on upcoming events.

Annual Polish Festival—October 12-14, St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, 1735 Grand Ave., San Diego. Visit www.polishmission.org for more information.

Escondido Center Chorale Concert—Saturday, October 13, 7:30pm, California Center for the Arts, 340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido. For more information, contact Douglas Lynn at douglasl@stmoside.org or www.artcenter.org.

Culture of Life Family Services (COLFS) "Pro-Life Is Good" Gala and Auction—Saturday, October 13, 5:30pm, Rancho Bernardo Inn, 17550 Bernardo Oaks Dr., San Diego. For more information, contact www.colfsgala.com or 619-692-4401.

Tatiana "Tajci" Cameron in Concert—Monday, October 15, at St. Stephen Church in Valley Center. Visit www.idobelieve.com for more details and other concert dates in the San Diego area.

Cathedral Catholic High School Open House—Saturday, October 20, 10:00am-2:00pm, 5555 Del Mar Heights Rd., San Diego. Open to families and students of all ages. Will include tours, panel sessions, and an information fair. For more information, visit www.cathedralcatholic.org or call the Parish Office at 760-758-4100 x102 to meet Parish families with students at Cathedral Catholic.

News from St. Francis Church

St. Francis School is our Parish School. St. Thomas More Parishioners are extended the same benefits and rewards as a St. Francis Parishioner, including:

- Parishioner priority for enrollment at St. Francis School,
- Equal tuition rates,
- Financial aid opportunities, and
- Fundraising support.

For more information, contact the school at 760-945-7960.

St. Francis Catholic School Gift-Wrap Fund-Raiser

It's that time of year for St. Francis Catholic School's annual Gift-Wrap Fundraiser. This is an important activity for the school—they actually receive between 45-50% of each item ordered, so you can feel good about stocking up on wrapping supplies. The holidays are right around the corner! This year's catalog also offers many other gift items like jewelry and chocolates—take a look in the catalog and see if there is anything you can't live without! There will be a table on the Plaza following all Masses on September 29-30. Questions about this fundraiser? Call Shannon Oswald at 760-889-1469.

Braille Institute Mega Fiesta Celebration—Wednesday, October 24, 10:00am-1:30pm, 4555 Executive Dr., San Diego. Food and drink, music, activities, diabetes and vision wellness education. RSVP by October 20 to Ann Eriksson, 760-599-7151.

Helping Veterans and Their Families—Saturday, October 27, 8:00am-12:00pm, The Rock Church, 2277 Rosecrans Dr., San Diego. A seminar sponsored by Chaplains Caring for Veterans and Families to explore the ways that local churches and faith communities can help to heal the spiritual, religious, and moral injuries suffered by military veterans. For more information, contact Yuki.Herrera@va.gov.

Young Adult Ministry Activities

Visit www.yamsd.org for complete information on events for young adults, including *Theology on Tap* series and outreach projects., plus a Leadership In-Service on October 4.

Also, search *Office of Young Adult Ministry* on Facebook.

San Diego Has a Full-Time Catholic Radio Station!

Immaculate Heart Radio broadcasts Catholic programming full-time on KCEO AM 1000. For more information, visit <http://ihradio.com/sandiego>.

Marriage & Family Life Corner

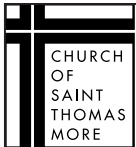
The Divorce Healing Ministry of St. Luke's Parish invites those going through a separation and divorce to a 12-week program of recovery entitled, *The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide*. Our support group meets on the first and third Tuesdays, from 7:00-9:00pm at the Church of St. Luke, 1980 Hillsdale Rd., El Cajon. You can start and end the series at any time. No charge. Seating limited; call to reserve your place with us: 619-401-6445.

The Bishops' Letter on Marriage—The Vocation: "Become what you are! This might be a great exhortation to newly married couples, especially given the strong tendency nowadays to reduce the love of the marriage bond to only a feeling, perhaps the romantic love of courtship and honeymoon. When that feeling dries up, it may seem to them that they have nothing left and that they have failed. It is at these very times, however, that their vocation as spouses calls them to go further, to 'become what they are,' members of a marital communion defined by the unbreakable spousal love of Christ for his Church." To read the document go to <http://www.usccb.org/loveandlife/>.

Marriage Moments—October is Respect Life Month. Sometimes spouses can be so busy taking care of children and trying to save the world that they get lazy about giving each other respect. Speak respectfully to your spouse and about your beloved today. This can include courteous actions, honoring your spouse's time, and giving preference to his/her needs.

Parenting Pointers—During Respect Life Month pick the life issue that you feel most strongly about (preventing abortion, supporting new mothers, helping those whose lives are mired in poverty, caring for the frail elderly, working for gun control, eliminating the death penalty, bullying...) Tell your child why this is important to you.

For more information, visit [www.diocese-sdiego.org/Ministries/Marriage & Family Life](http://www.diocese-sdiego.org/Ministries/Marriage%20&%20Family%20Life) or call Jen Frost at 760-758-4100 x100.



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Parish Contacts

Updated 7/29/2012

Council Chairpersons: Pastoral-Doug D'Agrosa 760-941-6800 • Finance-Paul Ibbetson 760-734-1051 • Development-Ron Briseno 760-726-4496

Pastoral Council Committees

Faith Formation & EvangelizationRory Griffin 760-414-3939

Religious Education (Adults)..... Kathleen Bell 760-758-4100 x110
 Small Church Communities Sondra Parks 760-598-1269
 Little Rock Bible Studies Pauline Lapre 760-727-8339
 Religious Education (Children)..... Kathleen Bell 760-758-4100 x110
 Liturgy of the Word for Children..... Cathy Meyer 760-598-7853
 Sacramental Preparation..... Kathleen Bell 760-758-4100 x110
 Mid. Sch. Youth Ministry Marcus Cabrera 760-758-4100 x161
 High School Youth Ministry..... Marcus Cabrera 760-758-4100 x161
 Women's Ministry/Fellowship..... Shannon Oswald 760-889-1469
 Men's Fellowship..... Dcn. John Fredette 760-758-4100 x132
 Ecumenical & Interreligious Affairs..... Regina Aulisio 760-295-5530
 Vocations Deacon Tom & Patt Goeltz 760-727-8442
 RCIA..... Kathleen Bell 760-758-4100 x110

LiturgyKathy Arciero 760-231-1022

Altar Linen Care Anna Meyers 760-727-4998
 Art & Environment Kathy Arciero 760-231-1022
 Bereavement Facilitator Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131
 Eucharistic Adoration Available
 Interior Design Team Pat & Phil Goscienski 760-732-1414
 Liturgical Ministries..... Douglas Lynn 760-758-4100 x140
 Liturgical Music..... Douglas Lynn 760-758-4100 x140
 Sick & Homebound (Eucharist). Jean McCloskey 760-758-4100 x100

Marriage & Family Life Jen Frost 858-692-7438

ACTTS Young Adults Jen Frost 858-692-7438
 Family Services..... Rev. Michael Ratajczak 760-758-4100 x100
 Marriage Preparation..... Rev. Michael Ratajczak 760-758-4100 x100
 Widows & Widowers of North County..... Carol Kope 760-726-0533
 Germaine Wilmott 760-758-9949

Parish Organizations & Events..... Lisa & Pat Attardo 760-940-1505

Historian..... Brandon Oswald 760-845-5450
 Knights of Columbus Jim Baker 760-726-2807
 Social Activities Henny Jocelyn 760-758-4100 x100
 Spirited Seniors..... Judy & Jerry Buoniconti 760-758-5113
 St. Thomas More Gala Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120
 Treasures Flea Market..... John & Wendy Murphy 760-497-6117
 Walking Ministry Diane Pal 760-815-2519
 Women's Guild Vera Bayliss 760-295-0059

Social Ministries Dick & Charlene Belprez 760-295-1431

Blood Drive..... Linda Dicus 760-726-5081

Brother Benno's Collections..... Deacon Tom Goeltz 760-727-8442
 Mike Nichols 760-822-3664
 Brother Benno's Kitchen Servers George Jones 760-940-9288
 Christmas Angel Ministry..... John & Marti Harper 760-724-1181
 Culture of Life Jane Kelleher 760-822-7041
 CPR/AED Classes..... Phil Goscienski 760-732-1414
 Disability Facilitation Ann Eriksson 760-599-7151

Fraternity & Michaelle House..... Diantha Zschoche 760-685-0081
 Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice

..... Joyce Meehan 760-724-4974

Jail Ministry Rita McCarthy 760-758-4100 x100

JustFaith..... Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131

..... Cathy Blecki 760-603-8930

More's Workers..... Jerry Gayvert 760-295-0645

North County Solutions for Change (NCSC)

..... Kevin & Lyn Leahy 760-643-0872

Prayer Request Line Pat Wong 760-806-1310

..... Norma Flanagan 760-630-0180

Project Linus..... Mary Coxon 760-599-8760

San Diego Organizing Project (SDOP)

..... Sr. Maureen Brown 760-758-4100 x131

Social Justice Henri Black 760-758-8137

St. Bonaventure Mission..... Dick Belprez 760-295-1431

Office Support..... Henny Jocelyn 760-758-4100 x100

General Support..... Henny Jocelyn 760-758-4100 x100

Chair Set-Up Lorraine Doering 760-758-4100 x102

Kitchen Overseer Agne Bolsakov 760-473-8461

Development Council Committees

Annual Catholic Appeal..... Flora Fallone 760-758-4100 x100

Capital Campaign Bill Ipsen 760-723-0402

New Construction Brian Leahy 760-598-5697

Parish Membership Valerie Thompson 760-630-1703

Planned Giving Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120

Publicity/Public Relations..... Jane Gladden 760-659-6168

Sacrificial Giving/Tithing Paul Ibbetson 760-734-1051

Scrip Sales Mike Nichols 760-727-7522

..... Andrea Sweeney 760-216-6389

Stewardship Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120

Vehicle Donations..... Vlad Bolsakov 760-758-4100 x100

Welcome Ministry Chris Smith 760-758-4100 x120

Pastoral Staff

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 Deacon John Fredette..... 760-758-4100 x132 johnf@stmoside.org
 Deacon Tom Goeltz 760-758-4100 x100 thomasg@stmoside.org
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 Sally Fay, Organist/Choir Accompanist 760-758-4100 x100 sallyf@stmoside.org
 Chris Smith, Director of Stewardship and Development 760-758-4100 x120 chriss@stmoside.org
 Joe Garcia, Director of Maintenance 760-758-4100 x151 joeg@stmoside.org
 Henny Jocelyn, Receptionist/Secretary..... 760-758-4100 x100 hennyj@stmoside.org
 Natalie Provinse, Bookkeeper..... 760-758-4100 x104 nataliep@stmoside.org
 Lorraine Doering, Parish Office Technician 760-758-4100 x102 lorrained@stmoside.org

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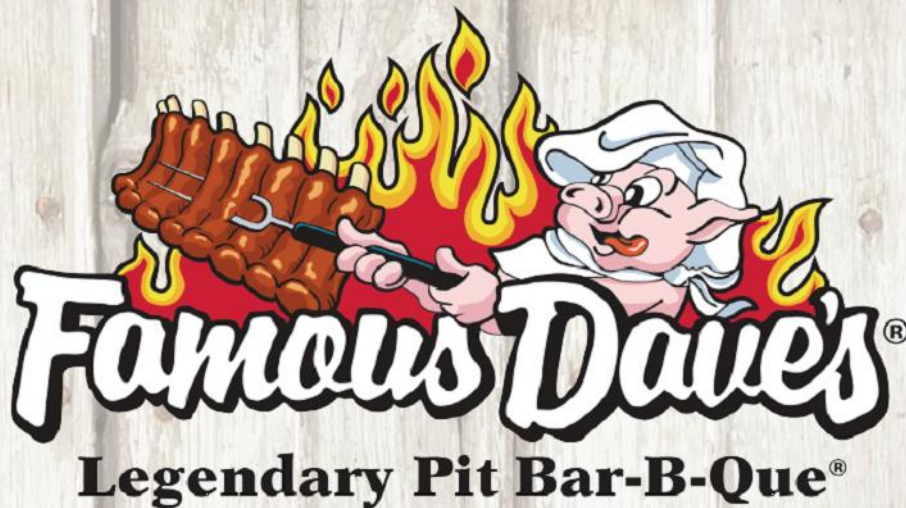
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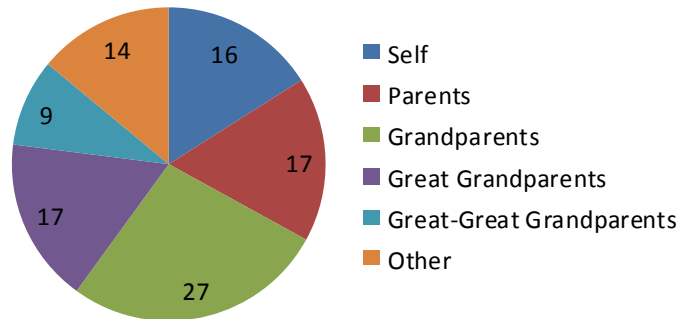
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A Snapshot of Our Parish: Immigration Survey (June 2012)

CONTEXT

The Parish Social Justice Committee developed this immigration survey because we wanted to discover more about who we are and from where we have come. We hoped that listening to each other's stories would help us get in touch with what we held in common and what was unique to each family. Many people said that the survey encouraged them to talk to other members of their family about their stories or to find out their family history in other ways.

How Many Generations Ago Did Your Family Arrive in the U.S.? (%)

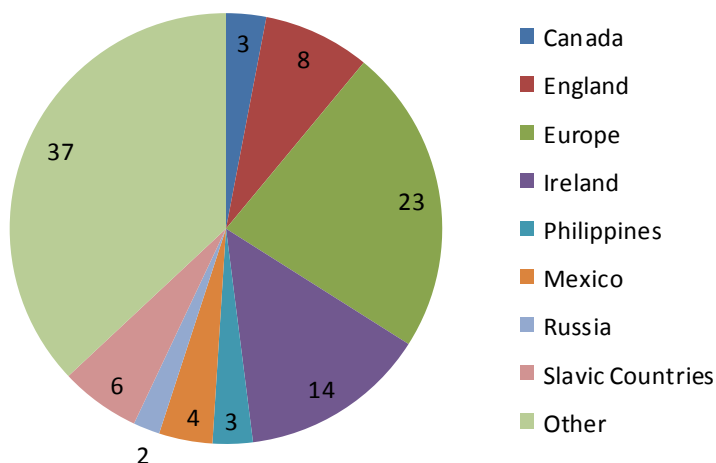


SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Questions #1-2: Who came to the United States?

More than half of those responding to our survey credit their grandparents for being the first to arrive in America. A few families came to the territory that would be the United States in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Not everyone came here willingly, however; two responders had ancestors brought here forcibly as slaves. One Native American traces his family back twelve generations, living in and around San Juan Capistrano.

Family Came From... (%)



Questions #3-4: Why did they come?

"Economic" led the reasons for coming to this country. Some named famine, religious or political persecution to account for their family's immigration. Others escaped genocide or impending war. Several mentioned marriage to one of our soldiers. Many came to be reunited with family.

Question #5-6: Where did they come from?

Most respondents traced their ancestors from Europe, including Eastern Europe, with some checking Ireland and England as their second or third place of origin.

A few came from Asia: Japan, Vietnam, and Indonesia.

Question #7: When your ancestors arrived in the United States, did they have to take a job below their training and/or former occupation?

Most respondents remember that their ancestors did not take a job below their training or former occupation, but 28% said that they did. We did not have a comment box after this question, so we don't have any further information.

Question #8, 9, 10: Did you grow up in community with an ethnic majority? Did you grow up listening to and/or learning a language other than English?

Most respondents did not grow up in a community with an ethnic majority, and perhaps consequently most people did not remember listening to and/or learning a language other than English. About one fourth of the people answering the survey grew up in ethnically diverse neighborhoods.

Question #11: Are you currently experiencing prejudice? If so, what kind?

Few respondents experienced prejudice, but those that did, remember ill treatment because of their accent, race, gender, or education.

Questions # 12, 13, 14, 15: These were questions about the respondent's relationship with their extended family.

Several respondents have up to twelve people in their extended family from other countries in Europe, the continent of India, and Asia. A little more than half of the respondents have lost touch with their extended families.

**Save the date—Friday, October 26, 6:00pm
for our next Parish Potluck
Bring your favorite ethnic dish!**

COMMENTS

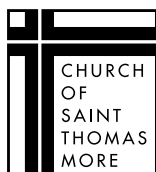
Here are some of the comments we received to various questions in the survey or at the conclusion of it. We hope they give you a sense of the story behind the answers to the survey questions.

- “Even though my mother and father were born in Hungary, they are of German descent. I was born in Hungary, came to the US from Germany. I speak Hungarian, German, and English.”
- “My father's father was from Ohio but went to India as a missionary. There he met a Scottish nurse from England, married her, and they had three boys. Each boy in turn came to America when he was 12 years old to go to school. Two of the boys, including my father, never returned to India. When her husband died, that grandmother came to the U.S.”
- “I grew up on base housing, and there were a wide variety of ethnicities present.” Another person remembers “lots of Italians and Irish Catholics” while another, “a very Polish neighborhood.”
- “I grew up in a Japanese community/neighborhood in Los Angeles interrupted by World War II when my parents, my 4 siblings and myself were incarcerated in a relocation camp in Gila, AZ for a period of 3 years, approximately.”
- “My grandfather (my mother's father) was a 14 year old orphan when he came to the U.S from Luxembourg. He had a sponsor in the North side of Chicago. He was taught to be a carpenter. Later he had his own business building green houses. There was a community from Luxembourg on the North side of Chicago in the 1860's.”

The Parish Social Justice Committee thanks the Parish for your support of this project.

*View more details of the survey results on the Parish website: www.stmoside.org, then **Quick Clicks**, then **Immigration Survey Results**.*

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Cathy Blecki at 760-603-8930 or cblecki@pacbell.net.



November 2012
As a Catholic...
How Do I
Decide?

We the People of
insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence
and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution
Article 1
Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.
Section 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature.
Section 3. The Senate shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for a Term of six Years; and they shall hold their Offices until their Successors be chosen.

November 2012

As a Catholic... How Do I Decide?

A Catholic Voter Education Aid from the Office for Social Ministry, Diocese of San Diego

There is little disagreement that as a faith community the Catholic Church has not reached its full potential to influence society for good with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, even with the clarity the Church has on human values that are reinforced by the Gospel. This is especially true in the realm of politics and government and becomes even more evident at election time.

The U.S. Catholic Bishops have worked for years to enliven the virtue of citizenship in the Catholic community. Given the state of electioneering over the past few decades, however, it is not surprising that many Catholics have avoided political involvement altogether. But no matter the disorderliness, the conflict, the confusion, or the unpleasantness of politics and elections, we Catholics have an obligation to be involved in the process and to restore a culture of political engagement based on respect, restraint, and especially veracity. For if truth is trampled in the pursuit of political power, those without moral bearings will likely be the ones to take that power and to wield it in abusive and corrosive ways. Catholics can no longer remain on the sidelines when it comes to the field of politics. Every Catholic, young and old, is called to political engagement of some form.

In November of 2011, the U.S. Catholic Bishops made this point abundantly clear, "In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. This obligation is rooted in our baptismal commitment to follow Jesus Christ and to bear Christian witness in all we do. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, 'it is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. This obligation is inherent in the dignity of the human person. . . . As far as possible citizens should take an active part in public life.'" Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility, sec. 13.

How Do I Use This Voter Aid?

This voter aid is designed to help Catholics embrace the virtue of citizenship by becoming better informed participants in the election process, which is essential to maintaining a healthy democratic society. It does not tell an individual how to vote, but rather, it will help users form their consciences so they can make sound moral choices. "The responsibility to make political choices rests with each person and his or her properly formed conscience." Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, sec. 7.

This aid is divided into eight sections. Each begins with principles and reflections taken from Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, additional Church documents, or statements from staff members of the OSM. Following the principles in each section are several suggested questions about candidates' positions relating to those principles.

It is your responsibility to determine the candidates' responses to these questions along with other questions you may formulate. Answers can be obtained by calling a candidate's office, by observing debates, by visiting a candidate's web site, or reading campaign literature. Having the answers to these questions will be invaluable in making a well informed decision on a candidate's ability to represent you – a citizen who seeks to establish a community founded on authentic human values, one that advances human life and dignity as well as the common good.

Seasoned political participants will likely not need the assistance of this voter aid. Newcomers to the world of politics may find this aid and the process it proposes burdensome, involving much work. Remember, experiencing a sense of exertion is common in the development of any virtue, and voters who gain the virtue of citizenship will eventually view the election process as enjoyable exercise in which they take great pride – not a dreaded duty.

To find your candidates, visit the Vote Smart web site at www.votesmart.org and enter your nine-digit Zip Code on the upper right-hand side of the page. (If you are unfamiliar with the nine-digit Zip Code in which you reside, most mail solicitation received at home, "junk mail," will have that full nine-digit Zip Code.) You may also call the San Diego County Registrar of Voters 858-565-5800, Toll Free 800-696-0136, Services for the Hearing Impaired TDD 858-694-3441 or the Imperial County Clerk-Recorder 760-482-4226 for this information.

Recognizing a Hierarchy of Human Values

Every voter knows that any one candidate will have positions on a variety of issues. An informed and seasoned voter will be able to relate to a candidate's various positions in an artful manner, one that ranks the positions from essential, to important, to somewhat important, and even down to the trivial. Those political positions will fall into an almost limitless number of categories: safeguarding citizens, economics, communication, transportation, the arts, family law, religious freedom, healthcare, the environment, global solidarity, labor justice, energy, immigration... The list is almost endless.

As Catholic voters, when vetting candidates, we have a responsibility to focus or concentrate on that which is most basic to human thriving – the political positions which lift humanity to a realm where individuals, families, and communities have the greatest chance of reaching their full potential.

Over the centuries the Catholic Church has clearly laid out the essential human goods that become core human values, those without which humanity will perish. Most basic is human life itself, and alongside it we find marriage, family, freedom, and constitutionally recognized equality. Nothing can be more important than supporting human life, marriage, the natural family, freedom, and human equality.

In every election cycle the question is asked, "Can a Catholic vote for a candidate who promotes and even funds laws and programs that support realities such as abortion, euthanasia, racism, or embryonic stem cell research - acts that are clearly intrinsic evils?" Here is what the Bishops had to say on the matter in *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, "As Catholics we are not single-issue voters. A candidate's position on a single issue is not sufficient to guarantee a voter's support. Yet a candidate's position on a single issue that involves an intrinsic evil, such as support for legal abortion or the promotion of racism, may legitimately lead a voter to disqualify a candidate from receiving support." (sec. 42). Put simply, protecting human life, family, freedom and equality are paramount in the political arena, and evils that directly attack them are so profound and egregious that a reasonable person cannot take seriously the candidacy of a person who allows or fosters them.

Imagine supporting a candidate that was right on every issue except for one. Let's say that a candidate running for state-wide office believed that people of African ethnicity were less than human, and that the candidate would work to eradicate the civil rights of African Americans. Would or could a voter take seriously a politician supporting this position no matter how "right" he or she was on a host of other issues? Obviously not. This is even more obvious when human life is directly attacked.

From time to time, however, mitigating circumstances can arise. It is conceivable that a pro-life Catholic could feel compelled to vote for a pro-abortion candidate. For example, one might be confronted by a set of candidates in a particular race where all supported legalized abortion in some form. Every candidate in the race might be pro-abortion. What then? Would it be permissible to set aside the life issue and base a decision on other factors or choose a lesser evil by selecting the candidate with the least strident pro-abortion position? Perhaps so, but it would be a true contradiction for a Catholic voter to support the candidate's actual position involving an intrinsic evil. A voter might also decide to simply not vote in that race.

Circumstances like these do occur. In situations where there is a legitimate possibility of voting for a candidate who embraces an intrinsic evil, caution would be advised, and the guidance of a competent counsel such as a pastor or moral theologian faithful to the Church would be recommended. Why is there a call for this counsel? Individual political interest, especially for those of us who work for justice, can easily cloud a correct understanding of the hierarchy of values that is at the foundation of authentic moral and political thought.

What is not legitimate, however, is to compile a list of a candidate's positive positions on lesser human goods (those not involving intrinsic evil) in an effort to justify a vote for a candidate when it is known that that candidate supports and will work to implement or advance an intrinsic evil.

In 1989 Cardinal Joseph Bernardin eloquently wrote, "...I wish to emphasize that no earthly value is more fundamental than human life itself. Human life is the condition for enjoying freedom and all other values. Consequently, if one must choose between protecting or serving lesser human values that depend upon life for their existence and life itself, human life must take precedence."

Let's move on to the issues themselves.

Protecting Human Life

Each human life, called into existence by God, is sacred. For this reason we have an absolute responsibility to defend human life at every stage and in every condition. Abortion and euthanasia are morally wrong because they attack life itself, the most fundamental good and the condition for all others. The U.S. Bishops have spoken clearly on this matter, "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 intrinsically evil acts must always be rejected and never supported. A preeminent example is the intentional taking of human life through abortion. It is always morally wrong to destroy innocent human beings. A legal system that allows the right to life to be violated on the grounds of choice is fundamentally flawed." *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, sec. 22.

The Church supports constitutional protection for unborn human life and legislative efforts to oppose abortion and euthanasia. It supports laws and programs that promote childbirth and adoption over abortion, and those that provide aid to people who are sick or dying. It opposes all forms of research that utilize the destruction of human embryos. It rejects the cloning of human beings whether for research or for reproduction.

Concerning the use of the death penalty... Society has a right and duty to defend itself against violent crime and to reach out to victims of crime. Yet our nation's increasing reliance on the death penalty is troubling. Respect for human life must even include respect for the lives of those who have taken the lives of others. The Catechism of the Catholic states, "If, however, non-lethal means are sufficient to defend and protect people's safety from the aggressor, authority will limit itself to such means, as these are more in keeping with the concrete conditions of the common good and more in conformity with the dignity of the human person." (sec. 2267). Some faithful Catholics disagree with the prudential judgment at the foundation for the Church's move away from approving of the use of the death penalty – that the current criminal justice system can adequately guarantee people's safety from violent aggressors – and support continued use of capital punishment. The vast majority of Church leaders, including the late Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and the U.S. Catholic Bishops, believe that current incarceration methods adequately protect society and thus support ending the use of the death penalty. There is not an absolute requirement, however, that all Catholics follow this lead.

Questions for candidates:

- ★ How will you protect the weakest in our midst: innocent and preborn children, seriously ill and dying, and those with disabilities?
- ★ Will you support or reject policies that allow for physician assisted suicide?
- ★ Do you support or reject federal/state funding for abortion?
- ★ Do you support or reject efforts to improve medical care for those at the end of life?
- ★ Do you support or reject the death penalty?
- ★ Do you reject state and federal funding for stem cell research that destroys human embryos and support proven and highly successful stem cell research using non-embryonic stem-cell sources?



Marriage and Family

Marriage is the intimate union and equal partnership of a man and a woman. It comes to us from the hand of God, who created male and female in his image, so that they might become one body and might be fertile and multiply (See Genesis chapters 1 and 2). Though man and woman are equal as God's children, they are created with important differences that allow them to give themselves and to receive the other as gift. Marriage is both a natural institution and a sacred union because it is rooted in the divine plan of creation. In addition, the Catholic Church teaches that the valid marriage between two baptized Christians is also a sacrament – a saving reality and a symbol of Christ's love for his church (See Ephesians 5:25-33). In every marriage the spouses make a contract with each other. In a sacramental marriage the couple also enters into a covenant in which their love is sealed and strengthened by God's love.

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Marriage and Family

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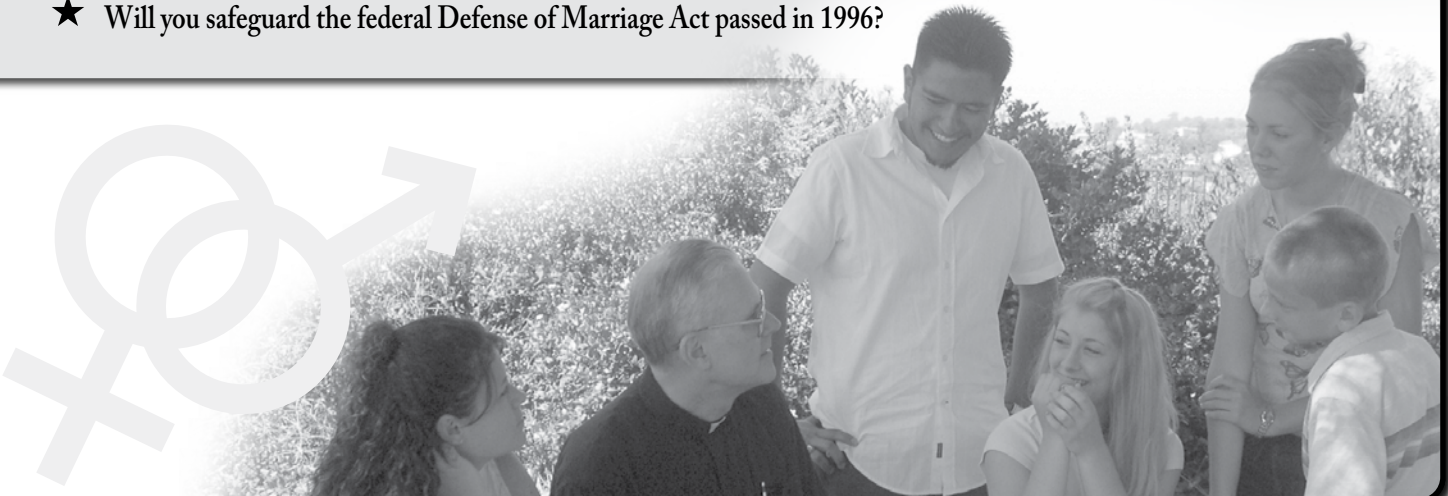
An intense battle is raging, especially here in California, over the institution of marriage. Proposition 8, which added to the California Constitution a definition of marriage as between one man and one woman, was passed by the California electorate in November of 2008 with 52.24 % of the vote – more than 7 million votes. The campaigns for and against Proposition 8 raised \$39.9 million and \$43.3 million, respectively, becoming the year's highest-funded campaign on any state ballot and surpassing every campaign in the country in spending except the presidential contest. Since that time, political forces hostile to the generally accepted notion of marriage have attempted to trump the voice of millions of California voters through the State and Federal Courts. California State officials refused to represent the voters of California and abandoned the defense of Proposition 8. Eventually the proponents of the proposition (ProtectMarriage) were given standing in the courts and now represent the voters of California. In early 2012, by a vote of 2 to 1, a panel of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals declared Proposition 8 unconstitutional. ProtectMarriage then asked a larger panel of 11 justices of the Ninth Circuit to review that decision but their request was denied in June 2012. In his dissent to that denial, one of the Ninth Circuit justices wrote: "we have now declared that animus must have been the only conceivable motivation for a sovereign State to have remained committed to a definition of marriage that has existed for millennia." The case now heads to the U.S. Supreme Court and should arrive there about the same time as other recent cases striking down the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). It is expected that the U.S. Supreme Court will probably accept the DOMA and Prop. 8 cases and rule on them in 2013.

Unthinkable until recent times, marriage itself has become a critical political issue. The U.S. Bishops also speak clearly on this issue, "The human person is not only sacred but also social. Full human development takes place in relationship with others. The family—based on marriage between a man and a woman—is the first and fundamental unit of society and is a sanctuary for the creation and nurturing of children. It should be defended and strengthened, not redefined or undermined by permitting same-sex unions or other distortions of marriage. Respect for the family should be reflected in every policy and program." *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, sec. 46.

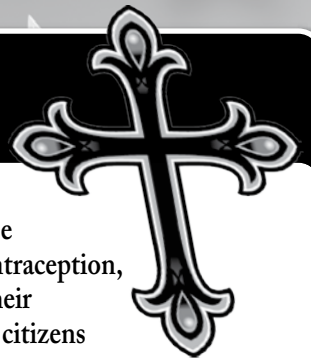
The optimal environment for raising a child is one in which the child's mother and father are married to each other. Deliberately depriving a child of a mother or a father is not in the child's best interest and is never compassionate. Children have a natural human right to be cared for by their natural parents. Men and women are distinctly different. Each gender brings vitally important - and unique - elements to a child's development. Thousands of academic studies reveal that the presence of a father in the home increases children's cognitive and verbal skills, academic performance, involvement in or avoidance of high-risk behaviors and crime, and emotional and psychological health. Our hearts and a wealth of research tell us of the power and importance of the mother-child bond.

Questions for candidates:

- ★ Do you support the traditional definition of Marriage as between one man and one woman?
- ★ Will you support policies and programs that will strengthen marriages and families in California?
- ★ Do you support the right of parents to be the primary educators and protectors of their children and receive notification concerning their children's health and welfare from institutions that serve families and children?
- ★ Will you safeguard the federal Defense of Marriage Act passed in 1996?



Religious Liberty



On January 20, 2012, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that nearly all health plans will be forced to cover drugs and procedures even if this violates the consciences of those who offer, sponsor or purchase the plan. As you may know, this directive is not just about access to contraception, abortifacients, or sterilization. The mandate is about forcing religious groups or individuals, against their beliefs, to pay for or provide these things under threat of sizeable penalties. The religious liberties of all citizens have come under attack by the current administration.

The backlash against HHS's contraception and sterilization mandate surprised no one. People of conscience rose up against this unjust and unconstitutional mandate. On Friday, March 23, 2012 in more in more than 140 cities nationwide, nearly 70,000 people from all walks of life spoke out at "Stand Up for Religious Freedom" rallies. More than 2,000 San Diegans took part in the local rally which was held outside the San Diego County Administration Center. Learn more about this issue at the U.S. Catholic Bishop's webpage, www.usccb.org/conscience.

As Tom Grenchik, Executive Director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities of the USCCB, said in an article on the HHS Mandate, "Defending the right of conscience comes at a high cost; but the cost of failing to do so is incalculable." At the San Diego rally, Bishop Flores said, "Today, we repeat again and again that religious freedom is not a favor from the government. Religious freedom is not a gift from politicians or from government bureaucrats. Religious freedom is a God-given right."

Again, Tom Grenchik, "It is cause for great hope that the Catholic community understands the threat, is united in opposition, and is swiftly mobilizing in parishes and dioceses, in hospitals and academic institutions, and nationally under the leadership of our bishops to demand that the freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment be upheld. If we do not stand and be counted now, what will be the next moral challenge forced upon people of faith? Who will be the next group targeted?"

Questions for candidates:

- ★ Do you support legislation that will affirm and protect religious liberty at the federal, state, and local levels?
- ★ Do you support eliminating administrative and other requirements found in public policy that would violate religious freedom?

Protecting Immigrants and Refugees

The Gospel mandate to "welcome the stranger" requires Catholics to care for and stand with immigrants, both documented and undocumented, including immigrant children. Comprehensive reform is urgently necessary to fix a broken immigration system and should include a temporary work program with worker protections and a path to permanent residency; family reunification policies; a broad and fair legalization program; access to legal protections, including due process and essential public programs; refuge for those fleeing persecution and exploitation; and policies to address the root causes of migration. The right and responsibility of nations to control their borders and to maintain the rule of law should be recognized. (Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, sec. 83)

While Catholics and others of good will may disagree with this remedy, it represents, in the view of the U.S. bishops, the most effective, humane, and practical approach to solving our immigration crisis.

Asylum should be afforded to refugees who hold a well-founded fear of persecution in their homelands. Our country should support protection for persons fleeing persecution through safe haven in other countries, including the United States, especially for unaccompanied children, women, victims of human trafficking, and religious minorities. (Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, sec. 88)

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Protecting Immigrants and Refugees *Continued*

“As Catholic bishops, we acknowledge the right and the necessity of our country to maintain our borders and enforce our laws. However, we caution that while so doing, our government must respect human rights and dignity and minimize the separation of families. We have consistently held that a restructuring of policy so as to address all aspects of immigration is the right way to secure our country, make our communities safe, and effectively solve the problem of unauthorized migration to our country.” Immigration Statement of the Catholic Bishops of California, January 2008.

- ★ Do you support or reject the protection of refugees and asylum seekers and repealing laws and policies that lead to their incarceration?
- ★ What would you do to stop the trafficking in human persons?
- ★ Do you support or reject fair and humane enforcement policies that also protect our national security?
- ★ Do you support or reject family-based immigration reform which reduces family backlogs and waiting times for family reunification?
- ★ Do you support or reject an earned legalization program for undocumented immigrants, which includes a path to citizenship?
- ★ Do you support or reject a temporary worker program which includes protections for both U.S. and foreign-born workers with an option for a path to permanent residency?
- ★ Do you support or reject restoration of due process protections for immigrants?

Solidarity and Subsidiarity... the Complexity of Solving Social Problems

The lack of housing, food, education, health care, and other basic goods is a serious problem in our country. The fact that individuals and families throughout the United States live in conditions of dire need presents a unique opportunity and requires some sort of serious response from each of us personally and from the many institutions that serve our community. Whether these institutions are small businesses or large corporations, non-profits or religious charities, or local or national governmental bodies, each needs to be engaged on behalf of those in need. This is at the heart of what has been labeled the virtue of “Solidarity.” We are our brother’s and sister’s keepers. Simply put, we care about our neighbors. But how we express that concern can be a complicated matter and requires careful thought and a profound respect for human dignity. This is especially the case when it comes to politics. This brings us to the clarifying concept of subsidiarity.

Pope Pius IX speaks eloquently on subsidiarity saying, “Just as it is gravely wrong to take from individuals what they can accomplish by their own initiative and industry and give it to the community, so also it is an injustice and at the same time a grave evil and disturbance of right order to assign to a greater and higher association what lesser and subordinate organizations can do. For every social activity ought of its very nature to furnish help (subsidiary) to the members of the body social, and never destroy and absorb them.” (Quadragesimo Anno, 79)

The basic rule for setting the scope and limits of governmental intervention is the “principle of subsidiarity.” Subsidiarity states that government should undertake only those initiatives which exceed the capacity of individuals or private groups operating on their own. Government should not replace or suppress smaller communities and individual initiative. We should not usurp what individuals and families can do for themselves by appropriating their contributions and absorbing them into a collective.

At this point a legitimate and more nuanced question can be asked, “How should we, as a complex community, be our brother’s keepers?” Should each individual problem or need be solved by instituting a federal governmental program to address it? Should these problems be solved by charitable organizations at the local level alone? Should individuals and families be strengthened so that they are no longer in need of being assisted? Should counties or states accept the burden of being keepers?

Continued on next page →

Solidarity and Subsidiarity... the Complexity of Solving Social Problems

Continued

It's time to shift the discussion to politics. Now, everyone knows that the two main political parties in the United States tend generally to lean in opposite directions. One party customarily promotes governmental solutions to individual problems, oftentimes increasing debt and at times slowing down economic growth. The other leans toward strengthening individuals and families and growing the economy so that families can care for themselves, a strategy that unfortunately oftentimes requires tolerating certain levels of serious need in the community. One routinely seeks to increase taxes so that individuals can be served by government. The other seeks to lower taxes so that the economy will grow, allowing individuals to participate more fully in the economy and care for themselves and their families. It seems as if most of the political debate today is consumed by the interplay of these two inclinations. Where does this leave you as a voter?

If you have gotten this far in the voter aid, you are likely taking your baptismal call seriously and have grave concerns about those in need, whether they be neighbors in your parish or in faraway lands. It is absolutely appropriate to bring those concerns into the voting booth. Keeping in mind the concepts of both solidarity and subsidiarity, your task is to judge the likely effectiveness of the measures proposed by candidates to solve problems such as lack of health insurance, chronic unemployment, hunger, homelessness, etc.

A word of caution... Don't be misled by one political faction alleging that its opposition has no concern whatsoever for those in need, or another political faction asserting that its opponent seeks only to engage and enlarge governmental bodies and their own power as they participate in solving problems beneath them. In fact, we have found that if all major political parties are studied carefully, each can be found to seek outcomes that are similar to the other: reducing need and creating a community that will thrive. Common sense tells us that most destinations can be reached by more than one path. Your mission is to choose a candidate that has the most appropriate set of policies that, if enacted, would best solve the problems about which you are concerned. Listen carefully to each candidate's proposals on eliminating human need, but don't forget to bear in mind the prior section on the Hierarchy of Human Values.

Questions for candidates:

- ★ What are your plans to make it more likely that healthcare insurance coverage is more readily available to those who cannot afford it?
- ★ Do you have proposed policies that will help reduce homelessness?
- ★ There are many working adults with children that, even though holding two jobs, cannot provide for their families. How do you propose that they leave a life of poverty?
- ★ Millions of adult citizens are still living without employment. How do you propose to impact job creation in the coming months and years?
- ★ How do you propose to help generate jobs with wages that will allow families to thrive?



Protecting Workers and Working-Poor Families

Economic decisions and institutions should be assessed according to whether they protect or undermine the dignity of the human person. Social and economic policies should foster the creation of jobs for all who can work with decent working conditions and just wages. Barriers to equal pay and employment for women and those facing unjust discrimination must be overcome.

Catholic social teaching supports the right of workers to choose whether to organize, join a union, and bargain collectively, and to exercise these rights without reprisal. It also affirms economic freedom, initiative, and the right to private property. Workers, owners, employers, and unions should work together to create decent jobs, build a more just economy, and advance the common good. (Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, sec. 76)

Efforts to provide for the basic financial needs of poor families and children must enhance their lives and dignity. We seek approaches that promote greater responsibility and offer concrete steps to help families leave poverty behind. Attempts to reform the welfare system have focused on providing productive work and training, mostly in low-wage jobs. Until new workers find jobs that pay a living wage, they will need other forms of support including: tax credits, assistance with health care and child care, housing and transportation. Which sort of agency or what sort of mechanism should be tapped to provide this support is an open question.

- ★ Do you support or reject efforts that assist working poor families as they work to secure jobs that support a living wage?
- ★ Do you support or reject strengthening of U.S. labor law that will sustain life with dignity for workers and their families?
- ★ Do you support or reject legislation that would allow farm workers to secure housing, be protected from environmental hazards and unsafe working conditions?
- ★ Do you support or reject an increase in the minimum wage that would reflect a living or just wage for workers and their families?

Promoting Global Solidarity

A more just world will likely be a more peaceful world, a world less vulnerable to terrorism and other violence. The United States has the responsibility to take the lead in addressing the scandal of poverty and underdevelopment. Our nation should help to humanize globalization, addressing its negative consequences and spreading its benefits, especially among the world's poor. The United States also has a unique opportunity to use its power in partnership with others to build a more just and peaceful world.

The United States should take a leading role in helping to alleviate global poverty through substantially increased development aid for the poorest countries, more equitable trade policies, and continuing efforts to relieve the crushing burdens of debt and disease. Our nation's efforts to reduce poverty should not be associated with demeaning and sometimes coercive population control programs; instead, these efforts should focus on working with the poor to help them build a future of hope and opportunity for themselves and their children.

U.S. policy should promote religious liberty and other basic human rights. The use of torture must be rejected as fundamentally incompatible with the dignity of the human person and ultimately counterproductive in the effort to combat terrorism. (Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, sec. 88)

- ★ Will you support or reject increasing debt relief to overcome poverty in the poorest nations?
- ★ Will you support or reject helping to alleviate global poverty through foreign aid programs that support sustainable development and provide new economic opportunities for the poor without promoting population control?
- ★ Will you support or reject helping to alleviate global poverty through trade policies that are tied to worker protection, human rights and environmental concerns?

Restorative Justice

"Make justice your aim; redress the wronged... come now, let us set things right, says the Lord." Isaiah chapter 1. "Our response to crime in the United States is a moral test for our nation and a challenge for our Church. It is time for a new national dialogue on crime and corrections, justice and mercy, responsibility and treatment." Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration, A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice, statement from U.S. Catholic Bishops, December, 2000.

Restorative Justice puts the victim at the center of justice. It puts emphasis on real harms done, on healing, and on putting things right more than merely the violation of statutes. The stakeholders – victims, offenders, their families, and the community – deserve direct involvement in solutions. It offers better alternatives that hold offenders accountable and challenges them to change. It reaches out to victims to offer support and encourages offenders to understand the harms committed

Questions for candidates:

- ★ Do you support engaging crime victims more in the prosecution of their cases?
- ★ Do you support practices that encourage victims and offenders to work toward mutual understanding and to work out real and meaningful restitution?
- ★ Do you support the practice of victim/offender dialogue in most cases?
- ★ Do you support the replacement of the death penalty with life imprisonment without the possibility of parole?



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Useful Links

Catechism of the Catholic Church
www.usccb.org/catechism/text/

Compendium of the Social Doctrine Of The Church
www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/justpeace/documents/rc_pc_justpeace_doc_20060526_compendio-dott-soc_en.html

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship
A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/>

The Gospel of Life (Evangelium vitae)
www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031995_evangelium-vitae_en.html

Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics
<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/abortion/living-the-gospel-of-life.cfm>

Catholic Charities USA – Social Policy and Advocacy
<http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/page.aspx?pid=318>

Justice for Immigrants
www.justiceforimmigrants.org

www.osmelink.org/vote

As Catholics, our conscience will not permit us to abandon unborn children because they are seen as unwanted or inconvenient, to turn our backs on immigrants because they lack the proper documents, to lose marriage as we know it, or to turn away from poor women and children because they lack economic or political power.

If you have any questions about this guide, call 858-490-8324

This voter aid has been carefully drafted in accordance with USCCB guidelines on political activity and should not be distributed in an altered form, nor should it be distributed in conjunction with any voter guide not approved by the Office for Social Ministry or the Office for Civil Affairs of the Diocese of San Diego.

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