

TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
OCTOBER 13, 2024



OCTOBER
THE MONTH OF
THE HOLY ROSARY

Today's Readings: Wis 7:7-11 (143B) Ps 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 Heb 4:12-13 Mk 10:17-30

ST. ISIDORE CHURCH
Laingsburg, Michigan

Pastor: Rev. Anthony Brooks
Rectory: 651-6617

E-Mail: franthony@stisidorechurch.org

Parish Secretary: Sharon Gillespie

Office: 651-6722 – E-Mail: office@stisidorechurch.org

Office Hours: Wed. & Fri. 8:00 – 3:00

Religious Ed. Formation (REF) – Mary Stevens-
marystevens@stisidorechurch.org

O.C.I.A. Dir.: Roger & Shirley Hughes -
ocia@stisidorechurch.org

Saturday Mass: 5:30 pm - **Sunday Mass:** 9:00 am

Confession: Wed. 5:30 to 6:20 pm & after Mass until 7:30

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH
Ovid, Michigan

Pastor: Rev. Anthony Brooks

Deacon: John Marsh

Parish Secretary: Sharon Gillespie

Office: 989-834-5855

E-Mail: holyfamilyovid@gmail.com

Office Hours: Tues. 8:00 – 3:00

Religious Ed. Formation (REF) Ginger Kusnier

O.C.I.A. Dir.: Vivian Durling

Saturday Mass: 4:00 pm - **Sunday Mass** 11:00 am

Confession: Saturdays 3:00 to 3:45 pm and
Thurs. 5:30 to 6:20 pm

Sacrament of Baptism
Sacrament of Matrimony
Anointing of the Sick
Last Rites

Please contact the office

For emergencies call the Rectory at 517-651-6617

ST. ISIDORE, LAINGSBURG

Saturday — Oct 12—(5:30 PM) † Leonard & Rita Farr by the Family
 Sunday — Oct 13—(9:00 AM) † Mike & Helen Hurst by the Family
 Wednesday— Oct 16 —(6:30 PM) † Jack Risch by Mary Lou Smith
 Thursday — Oct 17 – (8:30 AM) † Julie Bacik by Parishioners
 Friday —Oct 18—(8:30 AM) † Sheila Doyle by the Family
 Saturday — Oct 19—(5:30 PM) † Jack Risch by the Family
 Sunday — Oct 20—(9:00 AM) † Ed, Dawn & Tom Wrobel by Rob & Debbie Powell

**MASS SCHEDULE
FOR THIS WEEK**

HOLY FAMILY, OVID

Saturday— Oct 12— (4:00 PM) † Doug Angell 2nd Anniversary by Char Angell
 Sunday— Oct 13 —(11:00 AM) † Germaine Starkey by the Smith Family
 Tuesday — Oct 15— (12:10 PM) † Fr. Raymond Urbank by Lillian Bigelow
 Thursday— Oct 17 — (6:30 PM) People of the Parish
 Saturday— Oct 19— (4:00 PM) Jim & Pat Ziola 50th Wedding Anniversary
 Sunday— Oct 20 —(11:00 AM) † Gene & Mary Jane Schoendorf by Ron & Sarah Maynard



ADORATION

St. Isidore Church- Wednesdays

5:30—6:20 pm Adoration & Confessions
 6:30 pm Mass
 Adoration & Confessions Following Mass
 Until 7:30 pm

Holy Family—Thursdays

5:30—6:20 pm Adoration & Confessions
 6:30 pm Mass



Prays for the Sick

of our Parish Please contact the office to put names on the prayer list.

Names included should be parishioners, their relatives and friends. Also, remember all of our service members in your prayers.

ROSARY BEFORE MASS—ST. ISIDORE

Sundays 8:30 am—Thurs. & Fri. 8:05 am

MONTHLY DEVOTIONS

1st Wed. of Month—St. Isidore
 Rosary and Litany of St. Joseph after Mass

1st Friday of Month—St. Isidore
 Litany of Sacred Heart after Mass



WEEKLY OFFERTORY

Oct. 5 & 6, 2024

St. Isidore Offertory- \$2,891
 Holy Family Offertory - \$3,166
 Online Offertory - \$2,625

TOTAL: - \$8,682

Emily Rocheleau	Beverly Adcock	Jan Smith	Pam Hurst	Lesley Williams
Kelly Rocheleau	Judy Eyde	Tammy Smith	Alice Stawasz	Linda Palatka
Nita Hughes	Susan Hullburt	Tom Grettenberger	Elaine Stewart	Shirley Kalocy
Russ Mallery	Olivia Klein	Napoleon Martinez, Jr.	Joyce Enlow	Clare Greene
Craig Henning	Bruce Chandler	Gloria Costello	Sandra Tejkl	Liz Miller
Ken Latz	Jan Bozung	Tom Hulburt	Margaret Lane	Kvalevog Family
Pam Morgan	Rick Smith	Chris Basgall	Tamera Bodine-Wilson	Dale Coggins
Dan Schwart	Hugh Smith	Frank Palatka	Ernest Carr	Michelle Hurst

Notes from Fr. Anthony

Continuing with the break from the Catholic Church and the formation of the Anglican church by Henry VIII, we now look at the immediate aftereffects of this decision to found a new Church. We might spend a few weeks on this, as it is a very layered problem and does not get half the amount of attention as Luther's revolution and aftermath do.

Early on Cranmer and Cromwell, who had already basically become protestants and counseled the king into breaking from the Catholic Church, looked for ways to destroy monasticism. We have to look at a very important and often overlooked fact about our Church here. One of the primary goals of monastic life and monasteries was to pray for souls, in particular the souls of the deceased and the souls of their living and deceased benefactors. That is one of the reasons why when we read about church history and such, there is often mention of certain people or saints who helped build monasteries or convents through their work or donating money or land. For those people it was a way of insuring that there would always be someone praying for them, in particular after they died. That way they would never be forgotten souls in purgatory. Another thing about the monastic houses is that there was usually an intense loyalty to the Church and the Pope. As Protestantism declared that there was no purgatory, the monastic houses must be closed and this loyalty to Rome must be rooted out. Cranmer and Cromwell and their agents prowled the countryside to investigate these places. At first the smaller ones were forced to close, unless they could pay a certain amount of money every year to stay open. This was just a ploy to begin the wholesale closure and repossession of the monasteries and their property. Effectively killing two birds with one stone. Eliminating some of the main reminders of the Biblical and Catholic doctrine on purgatory and prayer for the dead and eliminating some of the staunch support for the Roman Catholic Church and its influence on the surrounding common folk. And as an added bonus, guess who gets the property? You guessed it - the government and nobles and aristocrats who are loyal to the government and its policies.

The monks are given the choice to join the diocese or they and the nuns are given the other option to leave the monastery. Neither of which is workable because by joining the diocese they are effectively abandoning their Church

because the dioceses are run by the Church of England or by leaving the monastery they are abandoning their vocations. As Henry still held on to vestiges of his abandoned Catholic faith, he would not force them to marry because of their vows of chastity and priestly celibacy. This would change later on.

One of the tools we see being used to facilitate this closure and spread of hatred for the monasteries are deliberate lies and misinformation about the moral level of the monks and nuns and manufactured financial scandals. Made up stories of all sorts of deviant behavior were spread and this made the seizure of the religious houses that much easier. While we know that there were some places where very bad things actually happened, it was nowhere near the level as purported by these agents. It was the deliberate spread of lies in most cases. We see something similar today, in particular in Canada where since 2021, 112 churches have been burned to the ground, the majority being Catholic churches. They have been burned as hatred for the Church is stoked by the false stories pushed by their government and media about the residential schools and mass burials, of which, there is as of yet, absolutely zero evidence to support. The power of misinformation and the cooperation of the media is of great assistance always in attacking the Church. In many cases in England the common folk rose up to protest and revolt against the destruction of their local monasteries, the destruction of relics and the forbidding of religious pilgrimages - most of these things were closely associated with monastic life. Monasteries and convents were centers of local learning and religious life. The government put down the rebellions with force. Already there had been numerous executions of religious for refusing to denounce their Catholic Faith and loyalty to Rome. There were also many from these revolts that were put to death. It culminated in the year 1540 with the total suppression of monastic houses in England. In that year, all the monasteries and convents were ordered to be closed and the religious orders dissolved effectively ending religious life on the soil of England. On that we will finish for this week, with more to come in the future.

God love you, Fr. Anthony

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Mondays—7:30 pm—"Zoom" online Rosary
Thurs—9:00 am—Quilting Ministry—Holy Family
Oct 12 & 13—Tootsie Roll Drive— K of C
Oct 13—Activities Group Meeting—Noon -Holy Fam
Oct 15—7:00 pm—AED Training—Holy Family
Oct 16—She Shall Be Called Woman—6-7:30p—HF
Oct 21-6:30 pm—Busy Moms—St. Isidore
Oct 26 —7:30 -9 am—TMIY—Holy Family
Nov 1—Spirit of Nazareth—Family Fun Night-6:30—HF

**Holy Family will serve cider
and donuts after both Masses
on Oct 19 & 20**



QUILTING QUIPS.

Opening soon for all your
Christmas shopping.

The Holy Family Christmas
Store will open on Nov. 16-

17th —just in time for you to shop
while the dears are hunting deers.

Shop early!

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY—OCT. 19 & 20

- NEXT WEEKEND we will celebrate World Mission Sunday.
- Pope Francis invites the entire Church to support mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe, where priests, religious and lay leaders serve the world's most vulnerable communities.
- Please keep the Pope's missions in your prayers and be generous in next week's collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

An AED (Automated External Defibrillator) was recently donated to Holy Family. There will be a quick training for all who would like to learn how to use this in an emergency or those from St. Isidore that would just like a refresher.

Oct. 15, Tuesday, at 7:00 pm at Holy Family

RELIGIOUS ED. FORMATION—(REF)

Holy Family

Class Time—Sunday: 9:50 am—Before Mass

St. Isidore

Class Time-Sunday: 10:15 am—After Mass

More info: marystevens@stisidorechurch.org



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Oct 12 & 13 —Tootsie Roll Drive

Oct. 20—Pancake Breakfast

Nov 13 —Business Meeting—7:00pm

Knight of the Month: Jerry Gialanella

Family of the Month: George & Paula Harris



**Your support during the tootsie
roll drive is greatly appreciated!**

**Donation can be made at the
pancake breakfast or mailed to
Knights of Columbus, PO Box 491, Laings-
burg 48848**



OLIVE WOOD CARVINGS

In two weeks, the Holy Land Carvings group will be here to represent the Christian woodcarvers of Bethlehem.

These artisans rely on tourism, but due to the war in Israel, they have lost their jobs and are unable to provide for their families. Their goal is to sell beautiful hand-carved Olive Wood religious items, including Nativity Scenes, Crucifixes, Rosaries, Statues, Pictures of the Last Supper, and many other religious items, to Catholic Churches in the United States. By purchasing one of these exquisite items, you will be supporting the Christian families in the Holy Land and helping them provide for their families.

We invite you to take a moment to browse through the carvings that will be available on the weekend of **October 26&27**. By supporting this project, you are making a significant contribution towards keeping the Christian community present in the Holy Land.

Please join us in this worthy cause and help us make a difference.

All Saints' Day

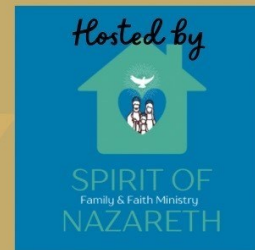
Family, Faith & Fun Night



Trivia with Father Anthony,
refreshments, All Saints Dress Up
Contest, prizes, and more!

NOV 1ST

following 6:30pm Mass
at Holy Family



RSVP: Sign up sheet at the parishesL scan
QR code or email
danandangelaporta@gmail.com



YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US TO LEARN HOW TO MAKE ROSARIES

The Catholic Church dedicates the month of October to the Holy Rosary so it seems only fitting that on October 22nd at 10:30 a.m. in the parish hall at Holy Family, there will be a class to instruct you how to make a Rosary. The class is free and all materials will be furnished. We only ask that you bring a pair of scissors and that you RSVP so that enough materials can be available for all that attend. Please RSVP to Carol Theile by OCTOBER 17th by emailing Carol at carolann.theile@gmail.com or by texting or calling her at 989-395-0283.



After Masses on October 12 and 13, the St. Isidore - Holy Family Knights of Columbus will be conducting their annual Tootsie Roll Drive fundraiser to raise money for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The proceeds will support Special Olympics and ARC Shiawassee programs that improve the quality of life for people with disabilities. Your support and generosity are greatly appreciated. Donations can also be made at the pancake breakfast on October 20.

focus

VOL. 52, FALL 2024



MICHIGAN
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

A Catholic Approach to Voting in the 2024 Election



Before voting, put on the 'mind of Christ'

Christ calls each person to be a light in the world. As the general election approaches this fall, Catholics can be such a light by allowing the truths of the faith to inform their voting decisions.

It may be challenging for some to view the election with this mindset, as reflexive support for a particular party and the ongoing level of disappointment with the integrity and suitability of some candidates linger.

Still, representative democracy in the United States requires public officials to be responsive to the will of voters, who have the collective ability to influence candidates and issues through choices made at the ballot.

Catholics can be a light to the nation and this state by allowing the faith to inform their voting decisions.

In short, Catholics have an important role to play each election, including this year, to improve the moral fabric of the state and the nation.

In addition to selecting a presidential candidate, Michigan voters this year will fill one of the state's two U.S. Senate seats. Other significant races include Michigan's 14 congressional districts, all 110 seats in the state House of Representatives, and two justices of the Michigan Supreme Court. Voters should also remember the importance of local races and issues that impact counties, municipalities, and school districts.

Voting is sometimes described as a civic duty. Yet, Pope Francis has said that each person also has a "vocation as citizen,"¹ and so voting also takes on a moral dimension for Catholics.

This edition of **focus** is intended to help Catholics in Michigan embrace the vocation of a faithful citizen in the 2024 election and beyond. From one end of the state to another, all are encouraged to consider St. Paul's exhortation to "put on the mind of Christ"² before voting. ■



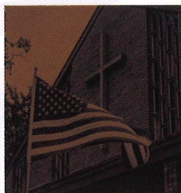
Let Faith Inform Political Participation

Living a life of faith in Jesus Christ is an ongoing process of transformation. Look no further than the lives of the saints; men and women throughout history whose personal conversions produced abundant graces. The Lord is inviting saints and sinners alike to come closer to Him, and to be mindful of decisions and choices that impact others, including those in the broader community.

Moving closer to Christ leads one to discipleship, where Christians strive to live Gospel values with hope, peace, and joy each day of the week—no different on a Tuesday than after Mass on Sunday. Living as a disciple in today's culture takes effort and is sometimes challenging. The same can be said when stepping into the voting booth or filling out an absentee ballot.

The values, morals, and ethics with which Catholics carry themselves extend to civic participation and how candidates for office are judged. Those who commit to following the Lord seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit

Catholic voters should be guided more by moral convictions than by attachments to a political party or interest group.



to help inform their choices. Candidates are then elected, who go on to make decisions about our communities, state, and nation.

How does faith apply to politics? And, should it? The simple answer is: Yes. The Church and her teachings shed light on important truths about human nature, such as the dignity and sanctity of every human life, the obligation to protect and serve the most vulnerable, and the purposes of marriage and family. These truths are not solely religious beliefs but also universal principles that all people can come to recognize through natural reason.

Every election season, some who are skeptical of applying faith to political participation claim—mistakenly—that a separation of church and state forbids such an approach. The vision advanced by President Thomas Jefferson was not to prevent religious persons or groups from participating in American democracy, but to maintain a wall that prevents government from encroaching into individual conscience rights and the religious life of citizens.³

Freedom of conscience and free participation of believers in American public life was considered so essential (and remains as such) that religious liberty was enshrined in the First Amendment to the Constitution. For Catholics, the Church guides the faithful to exercise their right to free participation in the democratic process by engaging in a period of prayerful discernment and conscience formation prior to voting. ■

Forming a Catholic Conscience



For faith to inform one's participation in civic life, forming a Catholic conscience becomes an important and helpful first step.

Conscience, as explained in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, is the point of judgment where a person recognizes the moral quality of a particular act. Formed according to God's revelation and the teachings of the Church, conscience helps a person discern how to act in accordance with the truth.⁴

Rather than a mere feeling, or a green light to justify doing anything a person wants, conscience can be thought of as the voice of God within that invites a person to do good, to act justly, and to treat others with dignity and respect. Doing the right thing—particularly in tough situations—is a process that starts with internal listening, continues in prayer, and ends with rejecting an evil or a harmful outcome.

A Catholic conscience, formed according to God's revelation and the teachings of the Church, helps individuals act according to the truth.

A Catholic conscience is best formed through prayer and regular reception of the sacraments, along with reading Scripture and the spiritual and teaching resources handed down by the Church. It is important to recognize certain acts are incompatible with love of God and neighbor and are always opposed to the authentic good of persons. These acts, called *intrinsic evils*, should always be rejected.⁵

As for how this concept applies to voting, consider the following teachings of the U.S. bishops from their document *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*:

- It is essential for Catholics to be guided by a well-formed conscience that recognizes that all issues do not carry the same moral weight and that the moral obligation to oppose policies promoting intrinsically evil acts has a special claim on our consciences and our actions.
- A Catholic cannot vote for a candidate who favors a policy promoting an intrinsically evil act, such as abortion, euthanasia, racist behavior, assisted suicide, deliberately subjecting workers or the poor to subhuman living conditions, or redefining marriage in ways that violate its essential meaning, if the voter's intent is to support that position.
- There may be times when a Catholic who rejects a candidate's unacceptable position even on policies promoting an intrinsically evil act may reasonably decide to vote for that candidate for other morally grave reasons.
- A candidate's position on a single issue is not sufficient to guarantee a voter's support. Yet if a candidate's position on a single issue promotes an intrinsically evil act, such as legal abortion, redefining marriage in a way that denies its essential meaning, or racist behavior, a voter may legitimately disqualify a candidate from receiving support.
- These decisions should consider a candidate's commitments, character, integrity, and ability to influence a given issue. In the end, this is a decision to be made by each Catholic guided by a conscience formed by Catholic moral teaching. ■

What is the Catholic Perspective on the Issues?



The social teachings proclaimed by the Church offer a refreshing vision of hope, because they are founded in God, who is the infinite source of all goodness and love.⁶ Accepting with prayer the Church's teachings will challenge longstanding voting habits and even historic loyalty to a particular party. However, a conscience formed by these teachings provides a cohesive and consistent perspective on current issues, where political choices are guided by faith, rather than by partisan stances.

To help summarize the Church's social tradition, the following nine advocacy principles help illustrate what the Church teaches and are meant to assist in evaluating candidate positions on policy issues.

Upon reflection, Catholic voters should ask themselves if the candidates for whom they are considering voting embody these principles, and if so, how.

Upholding the Dignity of Human Life

The Church proclaims every human person is created in the image and likeness of God and that each person possesses inherent and inviolable human dignity, present from the moment of conception until natural death.

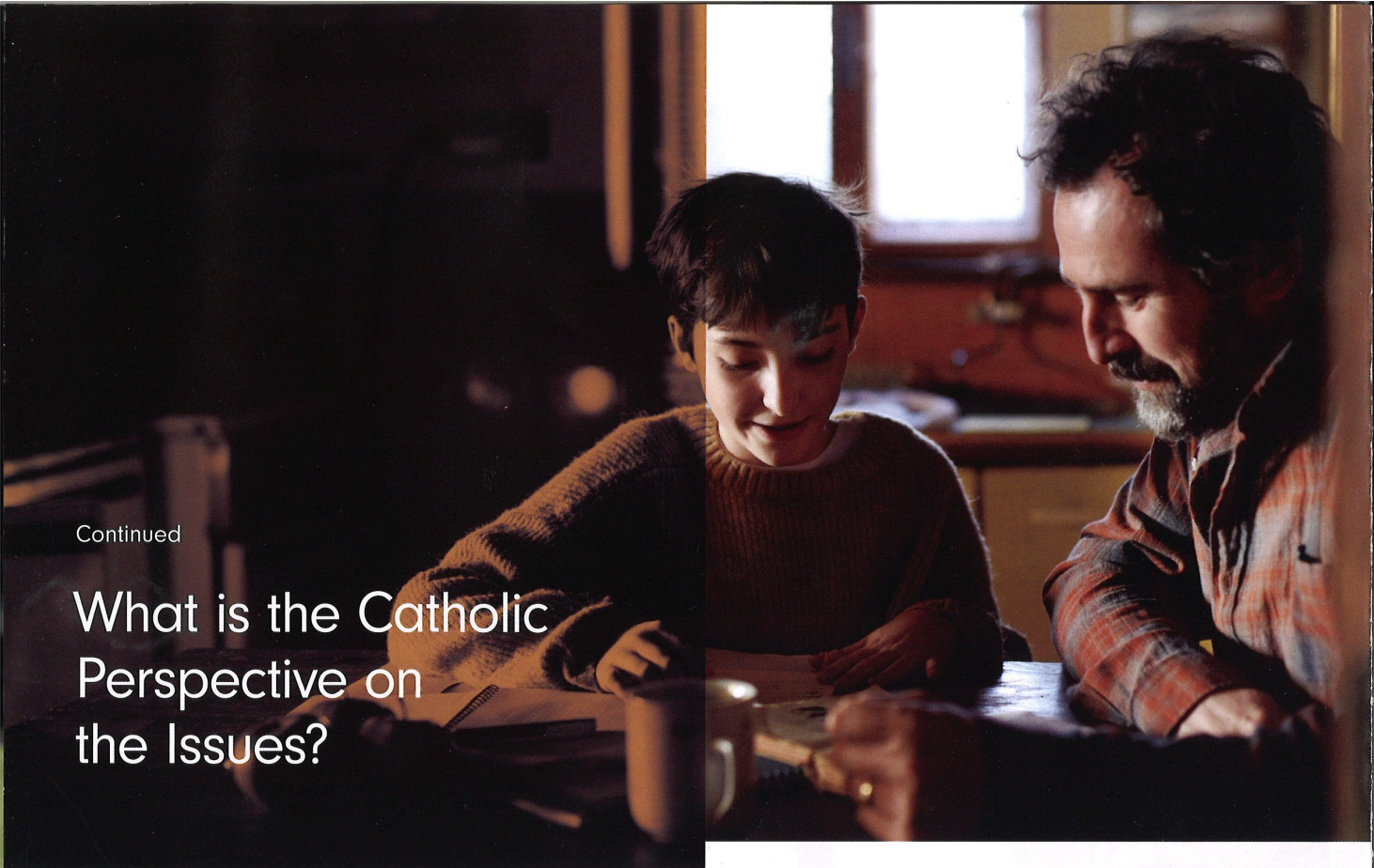
Defending human life from willful destruction is a pre-eminent issue, the bedrock principle for promoting the common good. It means that every person—regardless of his or her stage of life or condition—has a right to life, and to live in a dignified manner through the provision of his or her basic needs.

Providing for the Poor and Vulnerable

Because of its special concern for the poor, the Church believes public policies must prioritize those who struggle to make ends meet, preserve the social safety net, and promote affordable housing, childcare, and decent jobs. The rights of workers should be supported, which includes the payment of just wages and the ability to organize and bargain collectively without reprisal.

Protecting Religious Liberty and the Freedom to Serve

Catholics serve others, particularly those in need, by volunteering at and operating soup kitchens, health care facilities, refugee shelters, food pantries, pregnancy centers, and homeless shelters, among other service agencies. Such acts of charity are driven by Jesus's commandment to 'love thy neighbor' and to do so with fidelity to His teachings. Protecting religious liberty—the right to worship and to practice one's faith freely—means the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment must be maintained and protected in public life.



Continued

What is the Catholic Perspective on the Issues?

Supporting Students, Schools, and Parents

Parents are the primary educators of their children,⁷ and so the Church believes parents have the right to direct their children's education in accordance with their convictions. This includes the right for parents to send their child to the school of their choice, and for the state to make those choices available to all.

Strengthening Marriages and Families

Family built upon marriage is the central institution of social life,⁸ thus the Church advocates for policies that support and strengthen both marriage and family life. This includes promoting marriage as the lifelong covenant between one man and one woman, as well as policies that safeguard the rights and welfare of children.

Improving Access to Healthcare

The Church believes affordable and accessible health care is a fundamental human right⁹ and must be extended to the poor, uninsured, unemployed, and other vulnerable populations.

Pursuing Restorative Justice

To promote restorative justice, the Church supports efforts that include aiding crime victims and their families, assisting people leaving prison as they reintegrate into society, and strengthening relationships between police and the communities they serve.

Welcoming Immigrants and Refugees

In recognizing the inherent dignity of migrants and refugees, the Church advocates for an immigration system that ensures humane treatment, protects families, and offers a path to citizenship, while also maintaining the integrity of our nation's borders and the rule of law.

Caring for Creation and Preserving Natural Resources

The Church promotes responsible stewardship of the environment and the Earth's natural resources to honor God's gift of creation. This includes acknowledging and addressing the effects of climate change, with particular emphasis on protecting the people most affected by adverse climate conditions. ■

A Final Note of Encouragement

It can be challenging to compare Catholic teaching with the positions espoused by candidates for office. Neither of the country's two major political party platforms adhere to the full range of Catholic teaching. Making these voting decisions is sometimes discouraging. But Catholics are called as disciples of Christ to be a light in the world and to guide others toward the righteous path.

While it is important to spend time researching the candidates and the issues, putting on the mind of Christ before voting also necessitates stepping away from the noise through the election cycle.

The Church and this **focus** publication cannot and will not tell individuals which presidential or Michigan-based candidate they should vote for. Such decisions are to be made after forming one's conscience based on the teachings of the Church and prayerful reflection of candidate positions. It is up to all Catholics and people of goodwill to do the best they can to make wise judgments about the candidates and the issues.

Everything else is in God's hands. ■

How to Register and Be Ready to Vote in This Election

For more resources on faithful citizenship, visit MCC's 2024 election website at cthl.cc/election.



For more information about the upcoming Michigan election, including how to register to vote and to check voter registration status, how to find polling locations or obtain an absentee ballot, and how to see what is on the ballot, visit cthl.cc/jlncp.



Does cable news political commentary or social media discourse help inform a Catholic perspective?

Take time away from media and spend time with Holy Scripture and the Blessed Sacrament. Turn off the TV and the podcast and listen in silence.

Pray often, letting faith inform political participation.

For a complete list of sources that were cited in this publication, and to read and share a digital version of **focus**, visit cthl.cc/voting.

