

RESPONSE FORM

YES, please add my name to "Called to Embrace All of Life," to be published in U.S. Catholic and Our Sunday Visitor! Please print name as you wish it to appear:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Suggested individual contribution is \$30:

Enclosed is:

_____ \$50 _____ \$30 _____ \$100

Suggested group contribution is \$50:

Enclosed is:

_____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$150

If paying by MasterCard or Visa:

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

• This form can also be sent by fax to Pax Christi USA, "Attention: Sign-on," at: 814-452-4784. For more information, please contact our national office at 814-453-4955, extension 221, or email info@paxchristiusa.org.

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO PAX CHRISTI USA AND RETURN THIS FORM NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 2004.



Pax Christi USA
532 West 8th St.
Erie, PA 16502
814-453-4955
info@paxchristiusa.org
www.paxchristiusa.org

In October, Pax Christi USA will place the "Called to Embrace all of Life" statement in two major Catholic publications, *Our Sunday Visitor* and *U.S. Catholic*. The combined circulation of these two publications is nearly 100,000, but since both are staples of parish magazine racks everywhere, the actual readership is considerably higher. Both publications appeal to Catholics of a variety of political beliefs, economic backgrounds, and ages. Our hope is to reach the many Catholic voters in the U.S. who are still struggling with their conscience and the teachings of the church as they decide how to vote in the 2004 election.

In addition to placing this ad in *Our Sunday Visitor* and *U.S. Catholic*, it is our intention to make the ad available to regions and local groups for publication in their local newspapers, church bulletins, and diocesan newspapers. If you have interest in this possibility, please contact Michael Jones at 814-453-4955 ext. 228 or mike@paxchristiusa.org.

Pax Christi USA is the national Catholic peace movement. We reach over a half-million Catholics in the United States each year. Our membership includes: Over 700 religious communities; Over 600 parish sponsors; Over 120 bishops; Over 75 university and college campus groups; Approximately 280 Pax Christi local groups; and 20 regions that coordinate activities in their geographic areas.

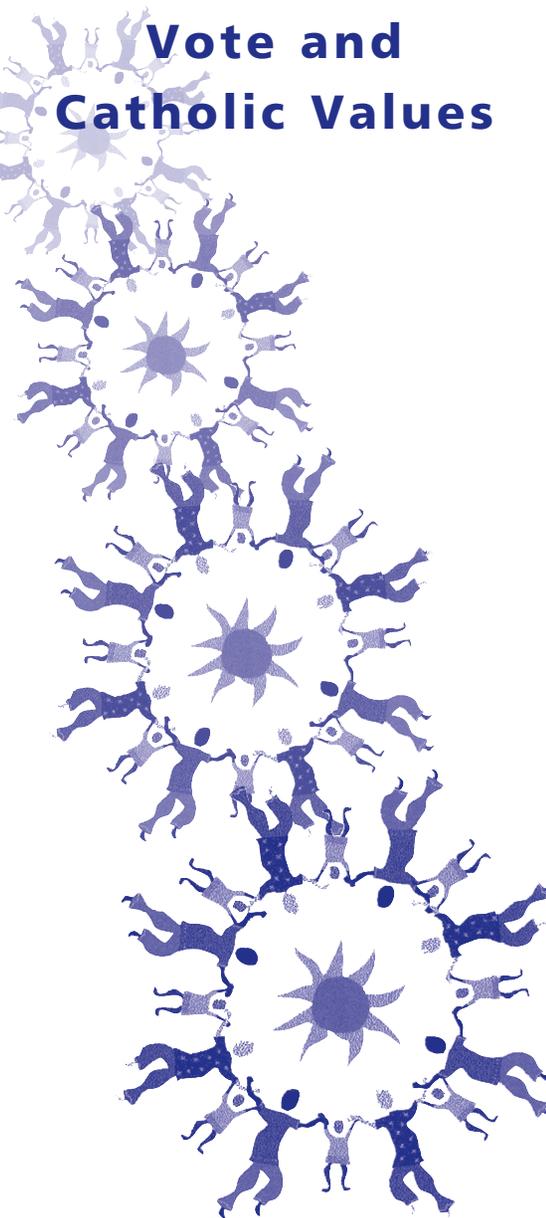
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The Catholic Vote and Catholic Values

Called to Embrace All of Life



**A PAX CHRISTI USA
ELECTION SIGN-ON
STATEMENT**

“A Catholic moral framework does not easily fit the ideologies of “right” or “left,” nor the platforms of any party...Our responsibility is to measure all candidates, policies, parties, and platforms by how they protect or undermine the life, dignity, and rights of the human person, whether they protect the poor and vulnerable and advance the common good.”—from “Faithful Citizenship,” issued by the United States Catholic Bishops

It is a common misperception of politicians seeking office that the Catholic vote can be courted by addressing a narrow range of issues. In reality, the great majority of Catholics in the U.S., in agreement with the U.S. Catholic Bishops, will vote for candidates based “on the full range of issues, as well as on [the candidate’s] personal integrity, philosophy, and performance” (“Faithful Citizenship,” U.S. Catholic Bishops, 2004).

Members of the media—and indeed a few of our own religious leaders—do a great disservice to our church and nation when they attempt to use one or another issue as the benchmark for Catholic identity. To characterize the whole content of our faith in a single issue is inappropriate and unjust.

“The Christian faith is an integral unity, and thus it is incoherent to isolate some particular element to the detriment of the whole of Catholic doctrine. A political commitment to a single isolated aspect of the Church’s social doctrine does not exhaust one’s responsibility towards the common good” (“Doctrinal Note on Some Questions Regarding the Participation of Catholics in Political

Life,” Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, November 24, 2002 and approved by the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II).

The Catholic Church teaches that ALL life is sacred. A candidate for office must understand that the Church stands against any policy or course of action which diminishes life, dignity, or the rights of the human person: abortion, capital punishment, war, scandalous poverty, denial of healthcare, mistreatment of immigrants and racism, to name but a few. All are essential issues to a “pro-life” voter.

For over 30 years, Pax Christi USA has raised the immorality and injustice of modern warfare as a serious affront to our Church’s proclamation of the sanctity of life. Over the past two years we have seen nearly 900 U.S. military and over 15,000 innocent Iraqi civilians killed in what Pope John Paul II repeatedly stated was an unjust and unnecessary war. Contrary to words used in political speeches, a commitment to the sanctity of life must be judged by the actions taken to defend and promote life in ALL its forms. War is a defeat for the culture of life and political leaders that

bring about or perpetuate war sin against God and humanity and cannot be considered in any sense of the word, “pro-life.”

There are 60 million Catholics in the U.S. We take the responsibility of voting seriously. Each of us will evaluate candidates based on what our conscience—formed by reading the signs of the times in light of the example of Jesus in the Scriptures and the teachings of our Church throughout the ages—demands. We will examine the broad range of issues, measuring “all candidates, policies, parties, and platforms by how they protect or undermine the life, dignity, and rights of the human person, whether they protect the poor and vulnerable and advance the common good” (“Faithful Citizenship,” U.S. Catholic Bishops, 2004).

In the gospels, Jesus implores us to love our enemies, to feed the hungry, to bless the peacemakers, to set the oppressed free, and to care for the widow, the orphan, and the stranger. This November, we will look for and vote for candidates who take as seriously as we do the teachings and example of Jesus Christ.