

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CHURCH



Father Mark Seiker
3301 Echo Drive
North Platte, Nebraska 69101

Rectory / Office [308-534-5461](tel:308-534-5461)
Parish Hall: 534-0511

Parish email: rectory-office@seas-np.org
Webpage: <http://www.seas-np.org>

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time ***October 18, 2020***

Welcome to St. Elizabeth's: It is our hope that you feel at home and among friends here at St. Elizabeth. If you are a visitor for a day, we pray God's speed on your journey. If you are looking for a parish community, we would be delighted to welcome you into our parish family. Please introduce yourselves. Registration forms are available in the entry racks or contact us anytime at 308-534-5461.

Religious Services

Mass Schedule For Sunday Obligation:

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Weekdays & Holy Days

As published in the Bulletin.

Rosary

Prayed **8:30 a.m.** Monday mornings, and
30 minutes before weekend Mass.

Sacrament of Confession

Offered 30 minutes before most all daily Masses
Saturday 4:00 p.m. – 4:55 p.m.
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. – 9:55 a.m., or by appointment.

Sacrament of Baptism

Parents are asked to attend a baptism preparation class. This is recommended, and easiest to do before the birth of the child, but must be done before the baptism.

Sacrament of Matrimony

To assist those who plan to marry, all couples will be required to fulfill the diocesan marriage preparation policy, which includes the FOCCUS & Engaged Encounter Programs. This requires a minimum of 4-6 months. The assessment process must be completed before a wedding date is set. Contact pastor early to begin the preparation.

Parish Information

Bulletin Deadline

All material is to be submitted to the parish office before noon Wednesday prior to the Sunday it is to appear. Email to: rectory-office@seas-np.org

New or Moving Parishioners

Please call the office to arrange an appointment with the Pastor to register in the Parish. Please call the office to notify us of any address change.

Your Will

Ask your attorney to include remembrance of your Church in your will.

Religious Vocations

Any young woman interested in religious life, or young man interested in a vocation to the priesthood should contact your pastor. Please pray for vocations!

Education

Family Formation Program

Sunday mornings (Sept-May) 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.)

For those interested in possibly joining the Catholic Church. Usually on Wednesdays (Sept-May), 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in Parish Hall. Please contact the parish office for more information.

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Monday	Oct. 19	8:00 a.m.
Tuesday	Oct. 20	
Wednesday	Oct. 21	5:30 p.m.
6:00pm-10:00pm Eucharistic Holy Hours => Spend time with Jesus		
Thursday	Oct. 22	8:00 a.m.
Friday	Oct. 23	12:10 p.m.
		5:30 p.m.
Saturday	Oct. 24	5:00 p.m.
Sunday	Oct. 25	10:00 a.m.

INTENTIONS

Donald & Melania Trump
 - No Scheduled Parish Mass -
 Otto, Virginia, Lynn Weskamp +
 Special Intention (jls)
 Denise Wieseler
 For our Benefactors
 People of our Parish
 MaKenna Ketter

***Repay to Caesar
 what belongs to
 Caesar, and to God
 what belongs to God.***

—Matthew 22:21

Stewardship: October 11, 2020

Adult Envelopes:\$1,490.00
Loose Plate:.....\$163.00
Children:.....\$0.00
Holy Day: 0.....\$0.00
Total:\$1,653.00

Joy of the Gospel Campaign
 Total Pledged:\$958,770.00
 Gifts last week:\$150.00
Total Gifts Received:.....\$895,263.05
 Original DIAL Loan:.....1,485,000.00
 Total Received (CTTF Camp): \$1,025,440.07
 Misc Donations Received:.....\$739,940.31
 Total Payments on Loan:.....\$1,712,678.04
Balance on DIAL LOAN:..... \$54,536.89

Propagation of the Faith: ..\$70.00

Parish Calendar

Wednesday	Oct. 21	6:00pm – 10:00pm: Eucharistic Adoration 7:00pm – 9:00pm: RCIA Classes in Person and via Zoom
Thursday	Oct. 22	1:00pm: Adult Bible Study via Zoom (contact Teri Volesky)
Saturday	Oct. 24	Virtual Pro-Life Conference, "Redeeming the Time"

Catholic School News:

Upcoming Events: Oct. 19: No School, Faculty In-Service, 4:30pm- JH VB @ Sutherland, 5:30pm- Res JV VB vs. Hershey, Oct. 20: 5:00pm- Pink Out- VB Triangular, Oct. 21: Junior Career Day, Oct. 23: State XC, 7:00pm-FB vs Valentine, Parents' Night, Oct. 24: ACT Test Date

God is Here: Irish Rosary schedule has started. We are so thankful to our NPSP Seniors for leading the Rosary each week. Until guests are allowed to attend in person, we will be streaming the Rosary on our NPC's Facebook Page. Please log on live or go back & view later to pray with us!

Thank You! Virtual G.R.E.E.N. was a success! Many thanks to all of those that participated and tuned into our broadcast. If you were unable to bid on an item or didn't have access to YouTube, You can still make a donation by visiting www.bidpal.net/green20, Endowment Office, 308-534-5939.

Student of the Month: Kate Roberg has been selected as the student of the month for October. Teachers and Student Council members vote on a student to receive this honor. Kate, a junior, is the daughter of Jane and Kenny Roberg of North Platte. Her school activities include volleyball, track, S.A.I.N.T.S., Honor Roll. She's captain of the Strutter dance team and is a class officer. Outside of school she finds time to volunteer at parish events, she serves as a hospitality minister and has been an alter server. She and her family are members of St. Patrick's Catholic Church. Kate has two siblings, Isabel is a sophomore in college and Cara is an 8th grader at St. Pat's. Congratulations, Kate!

North Platte Catholic School: Faith & Knowledge for a Brighter Future

50 Days of Prayer and Fasting ... Join us as we lift our nation in prayer for 50 days from September 14th until Election Day on November 3rd. Pray for a different state each day. Participants are encouraged, but not required, to add sacrifices or some fasting to their prayers in a manner that is appropriate for their state in life. More details at "50 Days of Prayer and Fasting" on Facebook (search "50 Days of Prayers and Fasting") or Twitter (@50daysUSA).

A Big Thank You ... to all who helped with the funeral dinner for Beatrice Estrada. Whether you helped in the kitchen, brought a salad or dessert, or cookies for after the Rosary. You are appreciated. – *Funeral Committee for the Daughters of Charity.*

3-Part Evangelization Series ... Matt Simmons, Director of Evangelization & Spiritual Formation, will present talks on ~~October 7: Repentance & Faith~~, **October 28**, The Meaning and Value of the Cross; and **November 18**, Experiencing the Resurrection, from 7:00pm-8:30pm on Zoom. "In the midst of this cultural chaos the simplicity of the gospel is the answer. Jesus is calling us to a deeper repentance in order to experience his resurrection." The workshop is free. Registration is required if you wish to participate on Zoom. To register please visit: lincolndiocese.org/evangelization. Questions? Email Annette-Wemhoff@cdolinc.net.

LDCCW October Pro-Life Diaper Drive ...

The LDCCW is sponsoring the 11th Annual October Pro-Life Diaper Drive, collecting diapers throughout the month of October in each of the Lincoln Diocese parishes. The assistance of everyone in the Lincoln Diocese is requested. Donations will be shared with the Pregnancy Centers approved by the Bishop's Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities & Catholic Social Services across the Diocese & St. Gianna Women's Homes. Diapers given at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church go to Women's Resource Center.

Harmony ... Our participation at Mass is meant to spur us on to create a better world, in which all life, including the unborn, is protected. In his encyclical letter on the Eucharist, Pope John Paul II wrote the following: "*Certainly the Christian vision leads to the expectation of 'new heavens' and 'a new earth' (Rev 21:1), but this increases, rather than lessens, our sense of responsibility for the world today. I wish to reaffirm this forcefully at the beginning of the new millennium, so that Christians will feel more obliged than ever not to neglect their duties as citizens in this world. Theirs is the task of contributing with the light of the Gospel to the building of a more human world, a world fully in harmony with God's plan*" (n.20).

Good Counsel Retreat House Retreats Register for Online & in person Retreats sponsored by Good Counsel Retreat House www.goodcounselretreat.com, 402-786-2705, or goodcounsel@cdolinc.net. **Upcoming in-person and online retreats including:**

- Oct. 23-25: M/W, Fr. Karl Millis, *St. John of the Cross (a Carmelite themed weekend retreat for men or women (in-person and online))*
- Oct. 30-Nov. 4: M/W, Fr. Craig Doty, *Jesus, Please Heal Me! Prayer Teams available to pray in-person. (in-person and online)*
- Nov. 13-15: M/W, Fr. Matt Rolling, *Couch to Saint: Training to Be an Authentic Follower of Christ. (in-person and online)*

Emmaus Institute Classes ... There's still time to register for the following in-person or online fall classes with The Emmaus Institute for Biblical Studies, running Sep 8 – Nov 16: The Letter of James, Leviticus through Deuteronomy, Interpreting the Bible, Book of Job, Saints & Scriptures. Learn more & register at www.emmausinstitute.net.

Menopause Info Session ... Michele Chambers, CFCP, will be speaking about the health, hormonal, and charting implications of menopause on October 26, at 7:00pm at the John XXIII Diocesan Center. The event will also be virtual. Event is free, pre-registration requested at <https://lincolndiocese.regfox.com/menopause> Questions, please call NFP Office (402-473-0630) or email naturalfamilyplanning@cdolinc.net

Don't Miss Out: Pro-Life Conference ... We are excited to offer the Pro-Life Conference ONLINE this year on **Saturday, October 24**, featuring keynote speaker **George Weigel!**

This year's theme, "**Redeeming the Time**", is inspired by *Ephesians 5:15-16: "See therefore, brethren, how you walk circumspectly: not as unwise, But as wise: redeeming the time, because the days are evil."* Throughout the course of the conference, we hope to better understand the times we are living in, and learn how we, through our faith and pro-life witness, can redeem our culture.

The conference will feature live talks and an opportunity for group discussion. The talks will be available to watch after the conference, as well. There is no cost to attend, but you will have an opportunity to give a free will donation. Any funds not used to cover the cost of the conference will be used for post-abortion healing. Registration is open now! <https://necatholic.org/news-events/event-calendar.html/event-form/registration-form/51640/tickets> You will receive instructions for logging onto the conference a week beforehand.

Nebraska Catholic Conference ... suggestions:

October is Respect Life Month ... Reflection excerpts by +Joseph Hanefeldt, Bishop of Grand Island. Full message: <https://gidiocese.org/statements>

There are many challenges to the dignity of the human person in our society today. From the moment of conception until the time of death, life is being assaulted in countless ways. Violence seems to be the common answer for everything: the violence of abortion, the violence of human trafficking, violence against immigrants, the violence of racism, the violence of suicide and assisted suicide, the violence of rioting and the destruction of property, the violence of Planned Parenthood selling aborted fetal body parts for profit, violence from those who will not tolerate the freedom of religion. Living the Gospel of Life challenges us to present a different way of living to our violent, broken world.

Each of us must look within our own conscience and consider how we think of others and notice how we treat them. What we say and do to them, and what we say about them to others, comes from the deepest recesses of our hearts. Consistently living the gospel of life requires a deeper conversion, beginning within our own hearts. We must repent of any disregard we may have had for the dignity of others. We must adhere to the gospel of life at all times, seeking God's mercy for the times when we have not lived by the Golden Rule. Reflection by +Joseph G. Hanefeldt, Bishop of Grand Island

Give The Knights Your Cans ... Profit from recycling the cans used for Knights of Columbus charitable works. Place cans in the barrels in front of the storage shed (southwest corner of parking lot).

Daughters of Charity Bake Sale ... All Things Pumpkin Theme Bake Sale in the Narthex of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church on the following dates/times:

- **Saturday, October 24, 2020 6:00pm – 7:00pm**
- **Sunday, October 25, 2020 11:00am – 1:00pm**

All are welcome. Pumpkins and T-shirts will also be available for sale.

Bountiful Harvest: The Love of Christ ... a Benefit for Catholic Social Services – Hastings ... is being held from **October 1-25, 2020**. (the following is quoted from the *Southern Nebraska Register* online ... <https://www.lincolndiocese.org/news/diocesan-news/14188-annual-hastings-event-for-css-goes-online>)

For years the banquet has been held in the Hastings City auditorium to highlight the work of Catholic Social Services of Southern Nebraska (CSS) in the 16-county greater Hastings area. Due to social distancing efforts, CSS will not have the celebration dinner, but will conduct an online auction through Oct. 25 to raise funds to help the needy and vulnerable of the Hastings area.

The 2020 Bountiful Harvest Celebration will conclude Sunday, Oct. 25 with a live event on social media where CSS will show a brief video on the work in the Hastings area. They will also close the auction and draw the winner of a \$5,000 giveaway sponsored by Plum Creek Wagyu Beef.

To support the 2020 Bountiful Harvest Celebration, participants may visit www.csssisu.org/bh2020 and bid on gifts, trips, packages, and items.

Catholic Social Services opened a full-service location in Hastings in 1991. Now the St. John Vianney Center provides food pantry services; sack lunch distribution; emergency services including rent and utility assistance; disaster relief; the St. Joseph Gift & Thrift; St. Gianna's West, offering housing for those escaping violence; and through telehealth, the Clinical/Family Counseling program provides psychological services.

"The needs we are seeing in our communities have never been greater," said Phil Rosno, Hastings Regional Manager.

"So many people that were already on the brink financially have lost jobs or lost hours and that has put them over the edge," he explained. "When a good 40% of families do not have the resources to handle a \$500 emergency, a pandemic of this proportion causes a lot of misfortune."

He added that the struggles are not just financial.

"Depression, anxiety, suicide and abuse have all increased significantly in the past six months," he said. "The effects of Covid will take years to overcome. We implore you to be as generous as possible now to help us help those in most need."

Nebraska Catholic Voter Guide ... The Nebraska Catholic Conference invited all state legislative and federal legislative candidates on the upcoming ballot to answer a survey indicating their support or opposition on a variety of important public policy issues currently facing our state and nation. We also gave them the opportunity to offer a special message to you, the Catholic voter. Please reference the Voter Guide at: <https://www.nebraskacatholicvoter.com/>

FROM FR. MARK SEIKER:

Fr. Seiker Self-Quarantine ends ... Sunday evening, Oct. 18). On Monday afternoon, I will go to Lincoln to spend time with my parents. I will return after Supper on Tuesday evening. Thank you for your prayers & also to those who brought meals to me last week.

Bishop's Appeal for Vocations ... "Peace Be With You". Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, there is a different approach to BAV this year. Pledge cards and a letter for the Bishop's Appeal for Vocations 2020 to parishioners were put in the mail 10/03/20. You may place your contribution (*check only not cash*) in the enclosed envelope & mail to the Lincoln Drop Box. *If you do not receive a pledge card, or if you have questions, please contact Fr. Seiker (email or phone)*. The goal for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is **\$4,510.00**. This is our share of the Diocesan goal of \$800,000 which has been established by Bishop Conley. Your gifts and your prayers for our seminarians are much appreciated! Please support the Bishop's Appeal for Vocations.

Liturgical Ministers

Lector		
Acolyte		
Server		
Music		
Gifts		
Ushers		
Rosary		

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Eph 2:1-10; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 12:13-21
Tuesday:	Eph 2:12-22; Ps 85:9ab-14; Lk 12:35-38
Wednesday:	Eph 3:2-12; Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Lk 12:39-48
Thursday:	Eph 3:14-21; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 11-12, 18-19; Lk 12:49-53
Friday:	Eph 4:1-6; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 12:54-59
Saturday:	Eph 4:7-16; Ps 122:1-5; Lk 13:1-9
Sunday:	Ex 22:20-26; Ps 18:2-4, 47, 51; 1 Thes 1:5c-10; Mt 22:34-40

Prayers for the sick: Fr. Seiker, Tucker Smith, Robert Wessell, J.D. Troyer, Dean & Janice Large, Jennifer Schmid, Steve Haman, Sharon Beckius, Those affected with/by COVID-19, Theresa McCarthy-Garth, Troy Tickle, Iris Wyman Lloyd, Peggy Lawler, Matt Reisen (Matt & Ashley Perlinger's friend), Special Intention, Carolyn Cohen, Tim Garth (Theresa McCarthy-Garth's son), Those struggling with Alcoholism, Mary Lou Robles (Toni Barron's sister), Renate Nordquist, Mike & Kim Paul, Jim Beckius.

Prayers for the deceased: **Beatrice Estrada, Eloise Kramer** (Monica Kramer's mother), **Nellie Rodriguez** (Toni Barron's sister), **Reyes Robles** (Toni Barron's brother-in-law), **Margaret Ruskamp** (Donna Bode's mother), **Dolores Kosmicki, Patricia Zamora** (Toni Barron's sister), **Teresa Clouatre, Gordon Swanson** (Cindy Swanson's father), **Florena Schneweis** (Emily Krondak's mother), **Carlos Fleury** (Steve/Janet Fear's son-in-law), **Ruby Ramirez** (Toni Barron's sister), **JoAnn Bode Waters** (John Bode's sister), **Eileen Boltz, Leona Clouatre, Bernadine Torres, Martha Burbach, Luke Ranck.**

Birthdays/Anniversaries: 10/17 - Shirley Nisley, 10/22 - Heather Johnsen, 10/23 - Tracy Ryland.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION ... Sadly, one of the most difficult reforms of the Second Vatican Council for the Church to embrace has been one of the most thorough and beautiful: the sacrament of penance. Because it is individual and private, it has been difficult for the changes to take root. Sometimes a priest may be grounded in the earlier form, and at other times the penitent may resist the priest's attempt to blend in the proper texts and rituals. Perhaps because the new form is almost identical in structure to the old, it has been difficult to institute. It may also be true that with the liturgy in English now, it is far more clear that the Eucharist, too, is a "sacrament of reconciliation." It is certainly true that there are different skills and gifts in ministry, and experienced penitents know that not all priests are equally at ease in this sacramental encounter. Sometimes a difficult experience can drive people away from a liturgy that is spiritually rich and rewarding. Yet we know that one bad meal seldom puts people off restaurants forever: the dinner gong tends to dispel bad memories, and so we try again. Individual confession and absolution is for us both treasure and tradition. If you haven't been for a while, consider coming back to praise God for this gift of mercy. — Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

GOD REVEALED TO THE NATIONS ... Isaiah speaks to us today of Cyrus, King of Persia, anointed by the Lord. God calls Cyrus by name and leads him in service to the Israelites. In this passage we hear that it is the Lord who gives Cyrus his title, who arms him against his enemies, and who opens doors and unbars gates before him. And God does all of this so that the people will know that "I am the LORD," and that "there is none besides me" (Isaiah 45:6). Paul opens his letter with essentially the same notion – that in God alone we find our grace and peace. Paul also gives thanks to God on our behalf, calling to mind our work of faith, hope, and love. And in the familiar Gospel reading, Jesus tells the Pharisees to give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's. —Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

"Evil Wants Us to fall asleep, give up, stay locked in fear, despair, Stop Praying, Never Go Back to Mass, and Live as if God Does Not Exist." — Bishop Donald Hying

LOOK WHO'S TALKING ... When money speaks, the truth is silent. — Russian proverb

FAMILY ... As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live. — St. John Paul the Great

WORDS AND ACTIONS ... When people hear us speak God's word, they marvel at its beauty and power; when they see what little impact it has on our daily lives, they laugh and poke fun at what we say. — Anonymous second century Christian

Pray for our Seminarians: **Ranil John Weerakoon**, from St. Thomas Parish in Lincoln. He entered the Seminary in 2018. He is in Theology 1 at Mount Saint Mary Seminary.

Pray for our Religious Sisters: **School Sisters of Christ the King, Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln, Sisters at the Carmel of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, Pink Sisters, Sisters of Mary, Queen of Mercy.**

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS ...

(October) Prayer Intention for Evangelization - The Laity's Mission in the Church: We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity faithful, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.

The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship



Part II of II: Making Moral Choices and Applying Our Principles

This brief document is Part II of a summary of the US bishops' reflection, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, which complements the teaching of bishops in dioceses and states.

Part I of the summary of the US bishops' reflection, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, considered the core principles that underlie Catholic engagement in the political realm. Part II is a consideration of the process by which these principles are applied to the act of voting and taking positions on policy issues. It begins with the general consideration of the nature of conscience and the role of prudence. The application of prudential judgment does not mean that all choices are equally valid or that the bishops' guidance and that of other church leaders is just another political opinion or policy preference among many others. Rather, Catholics are urged to listen carefully to the Church's teachers when they apply Catholic social teaching to specific proposals and situations.

How Does the Church Help the Catholic Faithful to Speak About Political and Social Questions?

A Well-Formed Conscience

The Church equips its members to address political questions by helping them develop well-formed consciences. "Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act. . . . [Every person] is obliged to follow faithfully what he [or she] knows to be just and right" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1778). We Catholics have a lifelong obligation to form our consciences in accord with human reason, enlightened by the teaching of Christ as it comes to us through the Church.

The Virtue of Prudence

The Church also encourages Catholics to develop the virtue of prudence, which enables us "to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1806). Prudence shapes and informs our ability to deliberate over available alternatives, to determine what is most fitting to a specific context, and to act. Prudence must be accompanied by courage, which calls us to act. As Catholics seek to advance the common good, we must carefully discern which public policies are morally sound. At times, Catholics may choose different ways to respond to social problems, but we cannot differ on our obligation to protect human life and dignity and help build, through moral means, a more just and peaceful world.



Doing Good and Avoiding Evil

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 innocent human life, as in abortion. Similarly, human cloning, destructive research on human embryos, and other acts that directly violate the sanctity and dignity of human life including genocide, torture, and the targeting of noncombatants in acts of terror or war, can never be justified. Nor can violations of human dignity, such as acts of racism, treating workers as mere means to an end, deliberately subjecting workers to subhuman living conditions, treating the poor as disposable, or redefining marriage to deny its essential meaning, ever be justified.

Opposition to intrinsically evil acts also prompts us to recognize our positive duty to contribute to the common good and act in solidarity with those in need. Both opposing evil and doing good are essential. As St. John Paul II said, "The fact that only the negative commandments oblige always and under all circumstances does not mean that in the moral life prohibitions are more important than the obligation to do good indicated by the positive commandment."¹ The basic right to life implies and is linked to other human rights such as a right to the goods that every person needs to live and thrive—including food, shelter, health care, education, and meaningful work.

Avoiding Two Temptations

Two temptations in public life can distort the Church's defense of human life and dignity: The first is a moral equivalence that makes no ethical distinctions between different kinds of issues involving human life and dignity. The direct and intentional destruction of innocent human life from the moment of conception until natural death is always wrong and is not just one issue among many. It must always be opposed. The second is the misuse of these necessary moral distinctions as a way of dismissing or ignoring other serious threats to human life and dignity. Racism and other unjust discrimination, the use of the death penalty, resorting to unjust war, environmental degradation, the use of torture, war crimes, the failure to respond to those who are suffering from hunger or a lack of health care or housing, pornography, human trafficking, redefining civil marriage, compromising religious liberty,

or unjust immigration policies are all serious moral issues that challenge our consciences and require us to act.

Making Moral Choices

The bishops do not tell Catholics how to vote; the responsibility to make political choices rests with each person and his or her properly formed conscience, aided by prudence. This exercise of conscience begins with always opposing policies that violate human life or weaken its protection.

When morally flawed laws already exist, prudential judgment is needed to determine how to do what is possible to restore justice—even if partially or gradually—without ever abandoning a moral commitment to full protection for all human life from conception to natural death (see St. John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*, no. 73).

Prudential judgment is also needed to determine the best way to promote the common good in areas such as housing, health care, and immigration. When church leaders make judgments about how to apply Catholic teaching to specific policies, this may not carry the same binding authority as universal moral principles but cannot be dismissed as one political opinion among others. These moral applications should inform the consciences and guide the actions of Catholics.

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.¹

What Public Policies Should Concern Catholics Most?

As Catholics, we are led to raise questions about political life other than those that concentrate on individual, material well-being. We focus more broadly on what protects or threatens the dignity of every human life. Catholic teaching challenges voters and candidates, citizens and elected officials, to consider the moral and ethical dimensions of public policy issues. In light of ethical principles, we bishops offer the following policy goals that we hope will guide Catholics as they form their consciences and reflect on the moral dimensions of their public choices:

- Address the preeminent requirement to protect **human life**—by restricting and bringing to an end the destruction of unborn children through abortion and providing women in crisis pregnancies with the supports they need. End the following practices: the use of euthanasia and assisted suicide to deal with the burdens of illness and disability; the destruction of human embryos in the name of research; the use of the death penalty to combat crime; and the imprudent resort to war to address international disputes.
- Protect the fundamental understanding of **marriage** as the life-long and faithful union of one man and one woman

as the central institution of society; promote the complementarity of the sexes and reject false “gender” ideologies; provide better support for family life morally, socially, and economically, so that our nation helps parents raise their children with respect for life, sound moral values, and an ethic of stewardship and responsibility.

- Achieve comprehensive **immigration** reform that offers a path to citizenship, treats immigrant workers fairly, prevents the separation of families, maintains the integrity of our borders, respects the rule of law, and addresses the factors that compel people to leave their own countries.
- Help families and children overcome **poverty** and ensure access to and choice in **education**, as well as decent work at fair, living wages and adequate assistance for the vulnerable in our nation, while also helping to overcome widespread hunger and poverty around the world, especially in the policy areas of development assistance, debt relief, and international trade.
- Ensure full conscience protection and **religious freedom** for individuals and groups to meet social needs, and so enable families, community groups, economic structures, and government to work together to overcome poverty, pursue the common good, and care for creation.
- Provide **health care** while respecting human life, human dignity, and religious freedom in our health care system.
- Continue to oppose policies that reflect racism, hostility toward immigrants, religious bigotry, and other forms of **unjust discrimination**.
- Establish and comply with moral limits on the use of **military force**—examining for what purposes it may be used, under what authority, and at what human cost—with a special view to seeking a responsible and effective response for ending the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East and other parts of the world.
- Join with others **around the world** to pursue peace, protect human rights and religious liberty, and advance economic justice and care for creation.

Notes

1. *Veritatis Splendor*, no. 52.

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ISBN: 978-1-60137-546-9
Publication No. 7-546

