



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS GUILD OF THE QUAD CITIES

A CHARTERED GUILD of the Catholic Medical Association



CMA Outstanding Guild 2015 Award Recipient

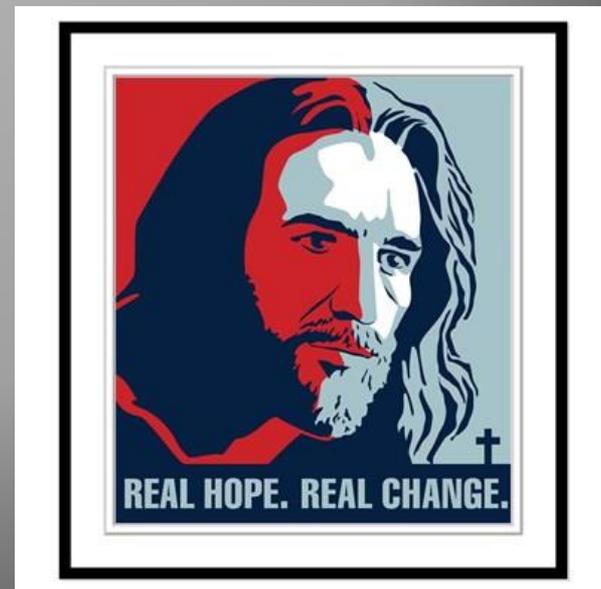
stthomasaquinasguildqc.com

FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP

*What the Catholic voter
should know*

WHY THIS TOPIC???

- ▶ Non-medical?
- ▶ Timely and important
- ▶ Both civic and religious implications
- ▶ “Intentional discipleship”
- ▶ 229th anniversary of the Constitution
- ▶ The Guild is not endorsing nor opposing specific candidates



FOUR PRINCIPLES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

- ▶ The Dignity of the Human Person
- ▶ The Common Good
- ▶ Subsidiarity
- ▶ Solidarity

The four principles of the Church's social doctrine



SUBSIDIARITY

“A community of a higher order should not interfere in the internal life of a community of a lower order.”

“...the social assistance state leads to a loss of human energies...”

– Saint John Paul II, Centesimus Annus, 1991

“The legitimate object of government is to do for a community of people whatever they need to have done, but cannot do at all or cannot so well do, for themselves...”

– Abraham Lincoln

SEVEN THEMES OF CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Catholic Social Teaching

ISSUES

Capital
Punishment
Health Care
Immigration
Political Responsibility
War
Cloning
Just Wages
Abortion
Racism
Euthanasia
Life and Dignity of the Human Person
Violence
Rural Life
Aging Issues
Option for the Poor
Care of God's Creation
Global Warming
Education
Solidarity
... more!!

PRINCIPLES

Call to Family, Community & Participation
Dignity of Work and Responsibilities of Workers
Option for the Poor
Care of God's Creation
Global Warming

CHURCH DOCUMENTS

Economic Justice for All
Pacem et Terris Mater et Magistra
Laborem Exercens
Rerum Novarum Evangelicum Vitae
Political Responsibility
The Challenge of Peace Centesimus Annus
Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World

ROOTED IN SCRIPTURE

Genesis
Deuteronomy
Sirach
Leviticus
Matthew
Paul
Jeremiah
Isaiah
Mark
Psalms
Luke

“Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching”

USCCB Publication No. 5-315

- ▶ Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- ▶ Option for Poor and Vulnerable
- ▶ Call to Family, Community, and Participation
- ▶ Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers
- ▶ Human Rights and Responsibilities
- ▶ Solidarity
- ▶ Care for God’s Creation

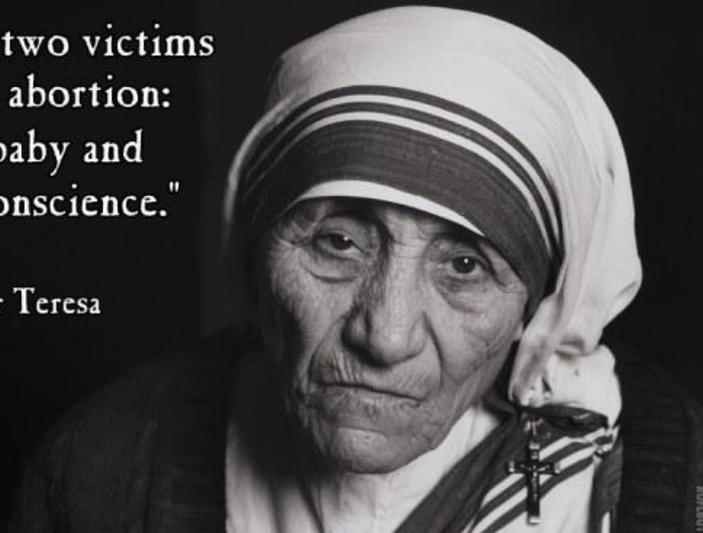
LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

- ▶ **Abortion**
 - ▶ **Euthanasia**
 - ▶ **Embryonic stem cell research**
 - ▶ **Cloning**
 - ▶ **Death penalty**
 - ▶ **Targeting of civilians in conflicts**
- 

CONSCIENCE PROTECTION FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

"There are two victims
in every abortion:
a dead baby and
a dead conscience."

- Mother Teresa



CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND PARTICIPATION

- ▶ The basic unit of society
- ▶ Marriage and the family
- ▶ The right and duty to participate in society



M
arriage,
the F
amily
and
S
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cripture

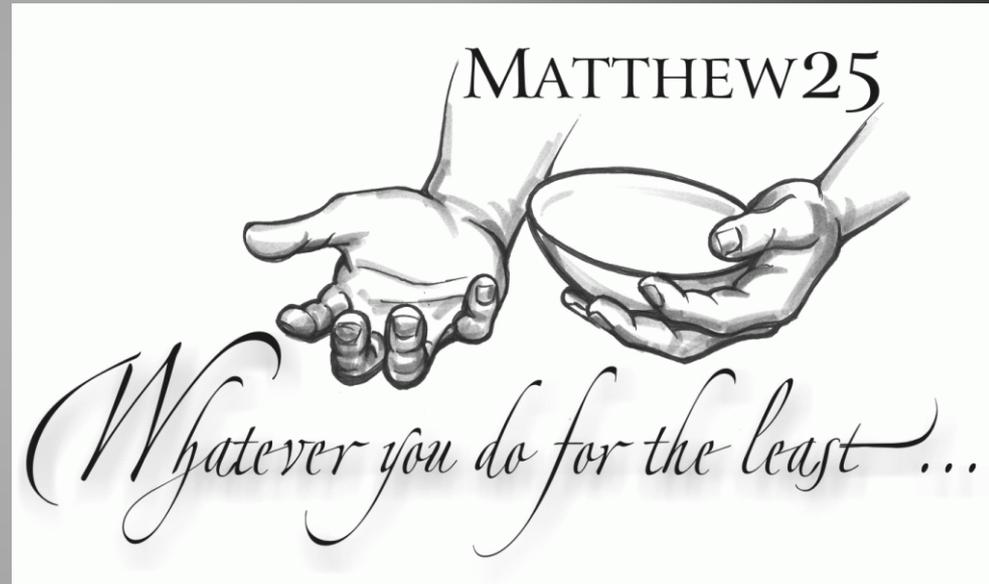
RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- ▶ Protection of human rights
- ▶ Fundamental right to life and human dignity



OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

- ▶ “A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring.”
- ▶ Matthew 25:31–46



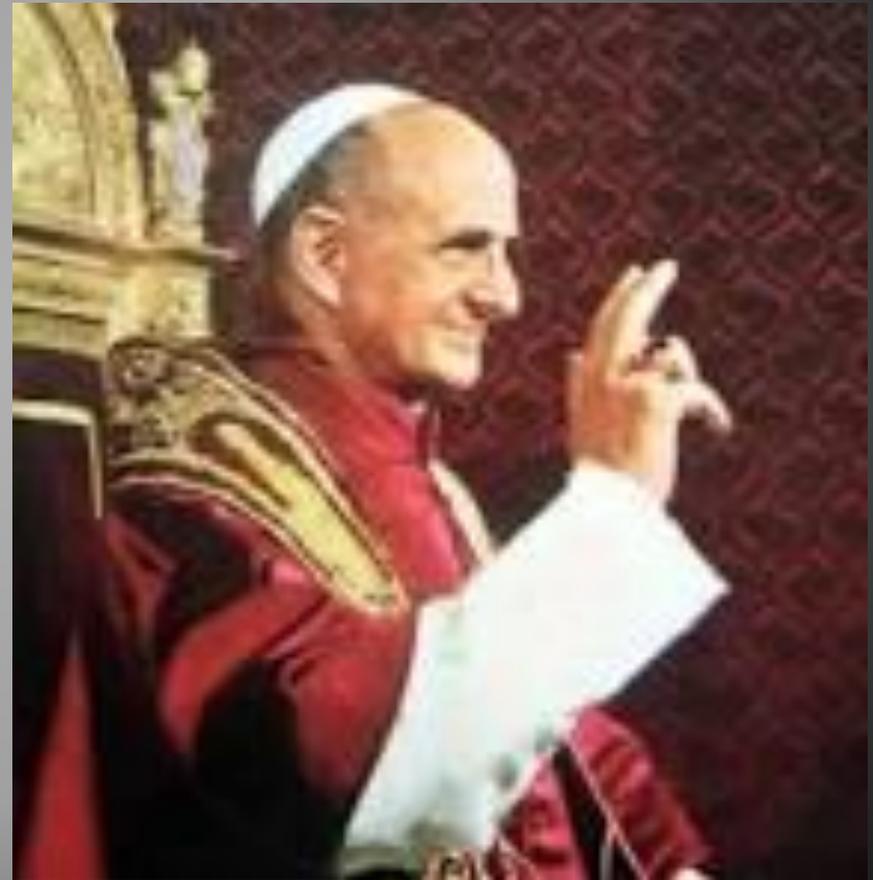
THE DIGNITY OF WORK AND THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS

- ▶ Right to productive work
- ▶ Right to decent and fair wages
- ▶ Right to organization of workers
- ▶ Right to private property
- ▶ Right to economic initiative



SOLIDARITY

- ▶ “We are one human family...”
- ▶ Love of neighbor
- ▶ Pursuit of justice and peace
 - “If you want peace, work for justice.”
 - Pope Paul VI, 1972



CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

- ▶ Stewardship of creation
- ▶ Protection of people and the planet

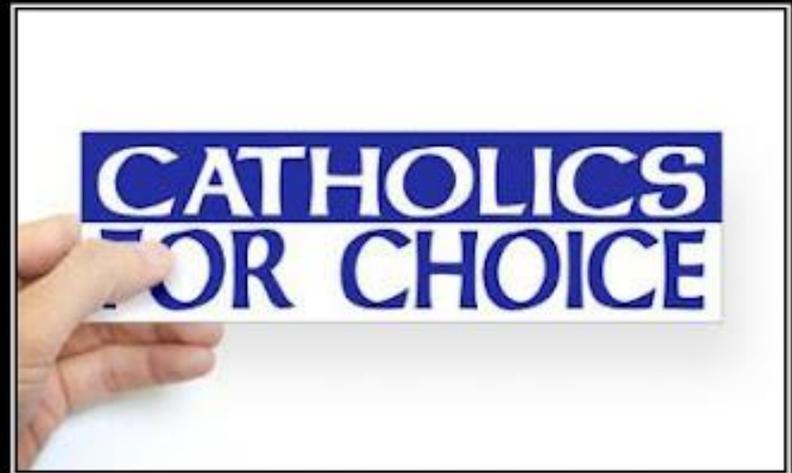


God gave humans dominion over the earth's resources.

BEWARE!!!

CATHOLICS
FOR
CHOICE

Catholics stand with
Planned Parenthood.



VEGANS FOR MEAT

SAME CONCEPT.

OK.....NOW WHAT???

**INDECISION
MAY OR MAY
NOT BE MY
PROBLEM.**



QUOTEHD.COM

Jimmy Buffett
American Singer-songwriter
Born 1946

**CHRISTIAN CHURCH
of LaCrosse**

**JESUS IS COMING -
HOPEFULLY BEFORE
THE ELECTION .**

SUNDAY

Bible School 9:30
Worship 10:30

WEDNESDAY

Prayer & Bible Study
7:00

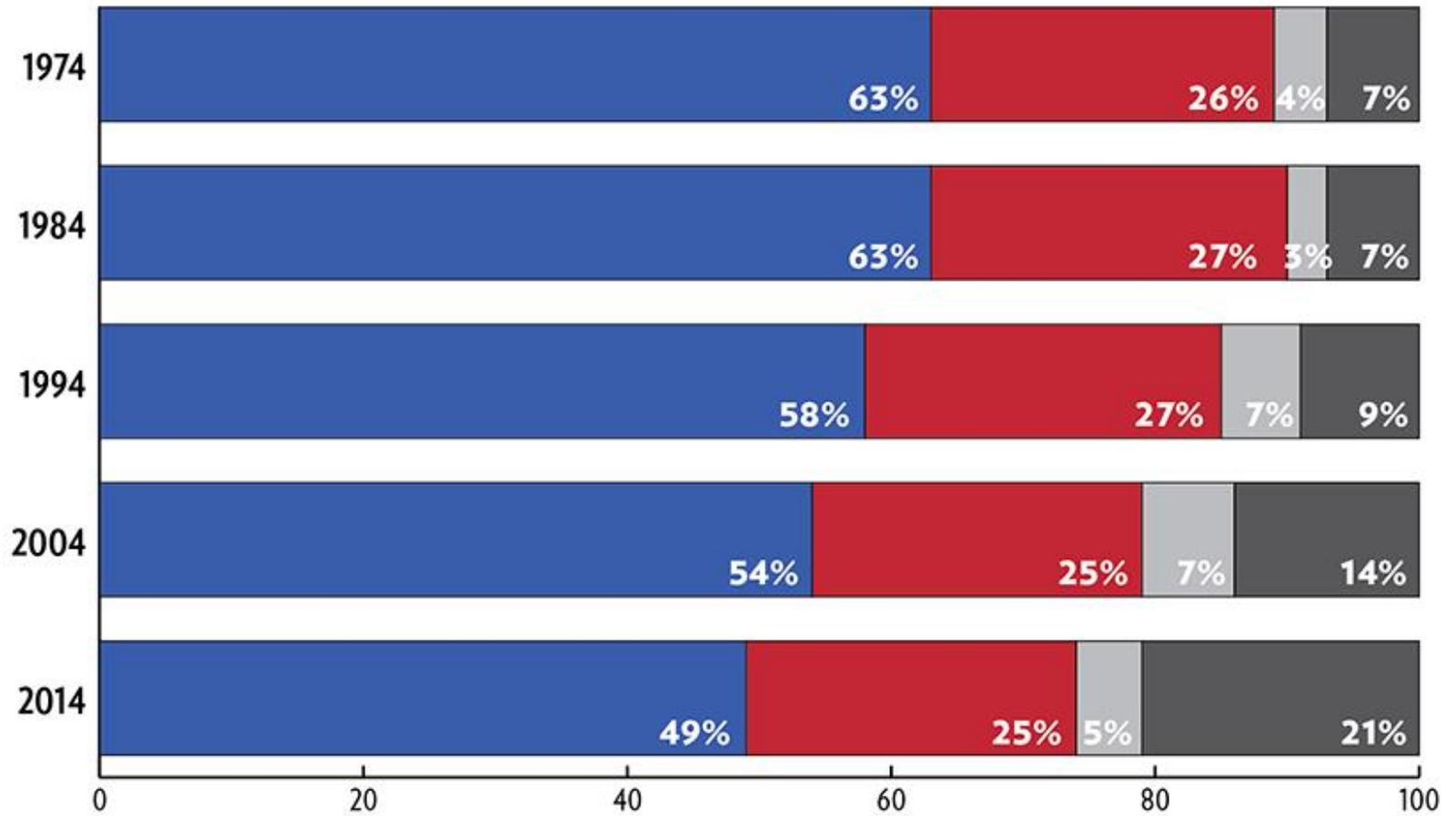
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1,869 TO PICK FROM!

<u>Richard Lee King Stuart II</u>	None	7/22/2016
<u>George Ryan Mirador Haines</u>	HAI	7/22/2016
<u>Coffee And Donuts</u>	Non Partisan	7/21/2016
<u>Abdulraqueebb Abozaid</u>	Independent	7/21/2016
<u>Jaret Samuel Gold</u>	Write-In	7/21/2016
<u>Nelda J. Takada</u>	No Party Affiliation	7/20/2016
<u>Christopher Farrenholz</u>	Independent	7/20/2016
<u>Ryan Mitchell Gillman</u>	Independent	7/20/2016
<u>Richard Lee Davidson</u>	Independent	7/20/2016
<u>Abdulraqueebb Abdullah Aaa Abozaid</u>	Democratic	7/19/2016
<u>Evafan Gde Blyat Gatari</u>	Communist	7/18/2016
<u>Bryan James Steinmetz</u>	Independent	7/18/2016

Protestant/Christian Catholic Other No religious affiliation



CURRENT POSITIONS

(as of 9/13/16)

	<u>Trump</u>	<u>Clinton</u>	<u>Johnson</u>	<u>Stein</u>
Abortion legal?	No	Yes+	Yes	Yes+
Parental consent?	?	No	Yes	?
Euthanasia legal?	?	Yes	Yes	?
Federal funds for PP?	?	Yes	Yes	?
Right to health care?	?	Yes	No	Yes
Death penalty?	Yes	Yes	No	No
Churches tax-exempt?	Yes	?	No	?
Build border fence?	Yes	?	No	No
Path to citizenship?	No	Yes+	Yes+	Yes+
Labor unions beneficial?	?	Yes	?	Yes
Same sex marriage?	No	Yes+	Yes	Yes+

TOWN HALL GROUND RULES



- ▶ Listen respectfully
- ▶ Speak one at a time, after being recognized
- ▶ Keep comments brief
- ▶ No personal attacks

CONSCIENCE

Vs.

**OPINIONS &
FEELINGS**

**ALL WE NEED
TO DO IS
VOTE.....RIGHT?**

“FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP”

- ▶ **“....the responsibility to make choices in political life rests with each individual in light of a properly formed conscience, and that participation goes well beyond casting a vote in a particular election.” (No. 7)**

DISCUSSION POINTS

Catholic vs. Political Party

“Intrinsically evil acts”

Single Issue Voter

Ends justify the means

Workers rights

Immigration reform

Catholic vs. Ideology

Church endorsement of candidates

Church vs. State

**CATHOLIC MORALS
VS
PARTY / INTERESTS**



“FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP”

- ▶ **“The Church calls for a different kind of political engagement: one shaped by the moral convictions of well-formed consciences and focused on the dignity of every human being, the pursuit of the common good, and the protection of the weak and the vulnerable..... As citizens, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to a political party or interest group.”**

(No. 14)

**“INTRINSICALLY
EVIL”**

“FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP”

- ▶ **“There are some things we must never do.... These are called “intrinsically evil” actions. A prime example is the intentional taking of innocent human life, as in abortion and euthanasia.” (No. 22)**
- ▶ **“A Catholic cannot vote for a candidate who favors a policy promoting an intrinsically evil act....” (No. 34)**

**CATHOLICS....
SINGLE ISSUE
VOTERS?**



“FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP”

- ▶ **“As Catholics we are not single-issue voters.... 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.” (No. 42)**

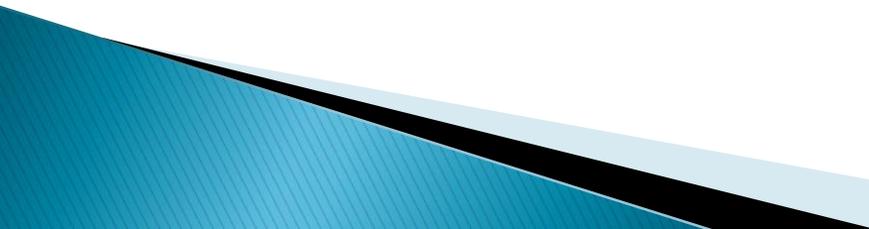
“FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP”

- ▶ **“When all candidates hold a position that promotes an intrinsically evil act, the conscientious voter faces a dilemma. The voter may decide to take the extraordinary step of not voting....or....may decide to vote for the candidate deemed less likely to advance such a morally flawed position....” (No. 36)**

**DO THE MEANS
JUSTIFY THE
END?**



“FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP”

- ▶ **“...the virtue of prudence, which St. Ambrose described as the ‘charioteer of the virtues’.”(No. 19)**
 - ▶ **“The Church’s teaching is clear that a good end does not justify an immoral means.” (No. 20)**
- 

WORKERS RIGHTS



“FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP”

- ▶ **“Workers, employers, and unions should not only advance their own interests but also work together to advance economic justice and the well-being of all.” (No. 50)**

IMMIGRATION REFORM



“FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP”

- ▶ **“Solidarity also includes the scriptural call to welcome the stranger among us – including immigrants seeking work...”
(No. 52)**

**CATHOLIC
VS
PARTISAN**



“FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP”

- ▶ **“...themes from Catholic social teaching provide a moral framework that does not easily fit ideologies of ‘right’ or ‘left’, ‘liberal’ or ‘conservative’, or the platform of any political party. They are not partisan or sectarian, but reflect fundamental ethical principles that are common to all people.” (No. 55)**

**CHURCH
ENDORSEMENT
OF
CANDIDATES?**



“FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP”

- ▶ **“The Church is involved in the political process but is not partisan. The Church cannot champion any candidate or party. Our cause is the defense of human life and dignity and the protection of the weak and vulnerable.” (No. 58)**

CHURCH VS STATE



POPE BENEDICT XVI

- ▶ **“The Church.....cannot and must not replace the State. Yet at the same time she cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice.”**

Pope Benedict XVI

Deus Caritas Est

**THE FIRST AND
FUNDAMENTAL
RIGHT?**



“FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP”

- ▶ **“Every human being has a right to life, the fundamental right that makes all other rights possible.... In a fundamental way, the right to free expression of religious beliefs protects all other rights.” (No. 49)**



A Comparison of the 2016 Republican and Democratic Platforms

A non-partisan guide on issues of concern to the electorate

REPUBLICAN PLATFORM	KEY ISSUE	DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM
<p>"The Constitution's guarantee that no one can "be deprived of life, liberty or property" deliberately echoes the Declaration of Independence's proclamation that "all" are "endowed by their Creator" with the inalienable right to life. Accordingly, we assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed. We support a human life</p>	<p>Human Life</p>	<p>"Democrats are committed to protecting and advancing reproductive health, rights, and justice. We believe unequivocally that every woman should have access to quality reproductive health care services, including safe and legal abortion—regardless of where she lives, how much money she makes, or how she is insured. We believe that reproductive health is core to women's, men's, and young people's health and wellbeing. We will continue to</p>

A photograph of a church interior, viewed from the back of the sanctuary looking down the aisle. The pews are wooden and arranged in two main sections. In the foreground, the top of an American flag is visible, partially obscuring the bottom of the frame. The altar area is visible in the distance, featuring a large wooden cross on the wall. The lighting is soft and even.

As we prepare for the
national & local elections, may
our political engagement be
guided by our Catholic Faith.

USCCB **Call to
PRAYER**
Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty