



## WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 3, 2020**

### **BISHOPS SHARE RESOURCES ON FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP**

The Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC), the public policy voice of Wisconsin's bishops, is distributing two series of resources to help Catholics reflect on their duties as faithful citizens. Catholics are encouraged to utilize these resources as they navigate the election process and fulfill their responsibilities as voters.

The first and longer five-part series includes focused resources on notable topics:

1. Letter from the Wisconsin Catholic Bishops/Overview of Catholic Social Teaching
2. Forming Consciences
3. Life & Dignity of the Human Person/Poverty & Economic Justice
4. Religious Liberty/Immigration & Solidarity
5. Marriage & Family/Care for Creation

The shorter three-part series includes general, overarching resources:

1. Letter from the Wisconsin Catholic Bishops/Overview of Catholic Social Teaching
2. Forming Consciences from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)
3. Select quotes from the WCC's five-part series

Additional resources outside of both series include:

1. Candidate Questions & Wisconsin Voter Information
2. WCC Guidelines for Church Involvement in Electoral Politics

As in years past, the WCC materials are based on the U.S. bishops' statement, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States* ([www.faithfulcitizenship.org](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org)). While the series and resources are designed for parish bulletins, they can also be reproduced on a parish website or on posters.

WCC Executive Director Kim Vercauteren observed that "our unique Catholic voice is vital in a time of increasing political polarization. I hope these resources motivate Catholics to deepen their understanding of Catholic social teaching and get engaged, not just around elections, but throughout the year."

In their letter, the Wisconsin bishops urge similar awareness and action:

"Even as we face personal challenges, we are called to look for ways to help those in need. We cannot forget those whose isolation caused by cruelty is constant and will extend beyond a time of pandemic. Now is the time to act on behalf of those who through abortion, xenophobia,

racism, poverty, and materialism, society fails to recognize as fully human. May we use what we have learned during recent challenges to better model the love of Christ in what we say and do.”

The bishops close their letter by urging Catholics to engage in prayer, formation, conversation, and action. They also urge individuals to accompany their neighbors and others who may need assistance in voting.

The WCC’s resources are provided to parishes through the diocesan offices responsible for respect life and social concerns. They are also available on the WCC website at [www.wisconsinatholic.org](http://www.wisconsinatholic.org).

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