

**DOES  
YOUR  
FAITH  
INFORM  
YOUR  
VOTE?**

**A workshop on the issues of  
the 2024 election**

Presented by Fr. Mark Miller, C.P.P.S.  
Oct. 5, 2025 | Precious Blood Renewal Center

## **PRAYER FOR CIVILITY**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where uncivil words prevail, show me how to model love.

Help me remember the God-given dignity of all and invite others to do the same.

Show me how to build bridges and not walls and see first what unites us rather than how we diverge.

## PRAYER FOR CIVILITY

Let me seek to understand before asking to be understood. Give me a listening heart filled with empathy and compassion.

May I be clear in sharing my own position and respectful and civil in describing those of others.

Let me never tolerate hateful ideas. May I invite all to charity and love.

Lord, help me to imitate your compassion and mercy.  
Make me an instrument of your peace. Amen.

## PRAYER FOR CIVILITY

Lord, help me to imitate your compassion and mercy.

Make me an instrument of your peace.

Amen.

# OVERVIEW OF THE DAY

## ISSUES NOT CANDIDATES

Need a sentence or two to fill in this space. What will you be talking about?

# TABLE TALK



One or Two questions here to be discussed in small groups

## SHARING WITH LARGE GROUP



What did your small group share about?

- What did you learn?
- Any items in common?
- Any disagreements?
- Other points?

## EQUALLY SACRED CHECKLIST

**How can we know we are voting for candidates who promote the common good?**



Pope Francis makes it clear: Catholics and all people of good will are called to be multi-issue voters, not single-issue voters, in the 2024 elections and in our continued participation in public life. This resource can support you in educating yourself as a faithful voter on the issues and concerns that are "equally sacred."

Source: [networklobby.org](https://networklobby.org)

**NETWORK**  
ADVOCATED FOR JUSTICE, INSPIRED BY CATHOLIC SISTERS

## Freedom to Be Healthy

Will you vote for candidates who...

- will protect and expand affordable health care for all and end the injustice of medical debt?
- support policies to reduce the cost of prescription medicines so patients can afford lifesaving care? support ending the Black maternal health crisis by investing in the expansion of critical programs to support the lives of parents and babies?
- support ending hunger in our nation with needed food assistance programs, such as SNAP, WIC, and school lunch programs?

The Catholic Church affirms that food and health care are not privileges reserved for the wealthy, but universal rights.

Equally Sacred Checklist

Source: [networklobby.org](http://networklobby.org)



## Freedom to Live on a Healthy Planet

Will you vote for candidates who...

- will address the climate crisis and invest in a rapid, just transition to renewable energy?
- will end policies that benefit fossil fuel corporations, such as tax subsidies and approval of pipelines?
- will address pollution and toxic dumping that disproportionately affect Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities, and ensure clean air and water for all?

Care for our common home is a requirement of the Catholic faith.

Equally Sacred Checklist

Source: [networklobby.org](http://networklobby.org)



## Freedom to Participate in a Vibrant Democracy

Will you vote for candidates who...

- refuse to use violent language or threats of violence against other candidates or groups of people?
- will ensure all eligible voters have access to voting, and restore voting for formerly incarcerated people?
- will limit the power of the wealthy to manipulate our democracy through unlimited dark money and gerrymandering?

Catholic teaching affirms that every person has both a right and a responsibility to participate in our shared politico/ processes, which we must structure to serve the common good.

Equally Sacred Checklist

Source: [networklobby.org](http://networklobby.org)



## Freedom to Care for Ourselves and Our Families

Will you vote for candidates who...

- will reduce costs for families, including via a robust Child Tax Credit, paid leave, and funding for childcare?
- will ensure all workers can earn a living wage and have the right to join a union?
- will ensure the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes, including by supporting a billionaire's tax?
- will address skyrocketing housing costs, including by investing in affordable housing, housing assistance programs, and a renter's tax credit?
- will support future generations by expanding training and apprenticeship programs and free college?

Catholic teaching promotes the dignity of work, the rights of workers, and an inclusive economy that places people over profit and ensures that we all have what we need to thrive.

Equally Sacred Checklist

Source: [networklobby.org](http://networklobby.org)



## Freedom From Harm

Will you vote for candidates who...

- support common sense gun control, including banning the use of AR-15s and other weapons of war, so our children and communities can live safely?
- will protect the rights of marginalized communities including Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities as well as LGBTQ+ people?

The Catholic Church insists upon every person's intrinsic worth, dignity, and right to live in safety — with no exceptions.

Equally Sacred Checklist

Source: [networklobby.org](https://networklobby.org)



## Freedom to Live in a Welcoming Country that Values Dignity and Human Rights

Will you vote for candidates who...

- support the right to asylum and paths to citizenship, and prioritize integration?
- promote inclusive policies that support border communities rather than militarization?

The Catholic Church affirms that we all have a right to migrate to seek a safe and good life for ourselves and our families, and that nations have a moral imperative to welcome immigrants.

Equally Sacred Checklist

Source: [networklobby.org](https://networklobby.org)



## How do we work for a more civil society?



- Pope Francis calls for “a better kind of politics, one truly at the service of the common good.”
- What is “a better kind of politics”? It means working across differences to listen to one another and connect around shared values, resulting in creative solutions for the common good.
- Here are 5 “musts” from Pope Francis that are essential for a “better kind of politics” in both our Church and society.

5 Tips for a Better Kind of Politics

Source: [civizeit.org](http://civizeit.org)



### 1. We are a human family

We must recover “the sense of belonging to a single human family.”

Pope Francis challenges us: “Isolation and withdrawal into one’s own interests are never the way to restore hope and bring about renewal” (no. 30).

Instead of “the inclination to be concerned only with myself, my group, my own petty interests” (no. 166) we have to commit to overcoming “every individualistic mindset” and instead “seek the good of all people” including those we may see as different from us (no. 182).

5 Tips for a Better Kind of Politics

Source: [civizeit.org](http://civizeit.org)





## 2. We must commit to approaching others with love.

Even those with whom we disagree are children of God. Sadly, such an approach has become countercultural.

This is a situation in which we must be prophetic, modeling by example a respectful approach that honors others as made in God's image.

This involves stepping outside ourselves, listening with empathy, and seeking to truly understand another person's experience.

5 Tips for a Better Kind of Politics

Source: [civizeit.org](http://civizeit.org)



## 3. We must identify common values based on truth.

Social love, Pope Francis says, has to be “accompanied by a commitment to the truth” (no. 184) informed by both faith and reason (no. 185).

An essential starting place for dialogue is to identify common values rooted in truth and justice, such as the dignity of the human person or a commitment to fundamental human rights.

Identifying these common convictions can unite us despite our differences and lead to creative thinking and new solutions.

5 Tips for a Better Kind of Politics

Source: [civizeit.org](http://civizeit.org)



#### 4. We must learn how to unmask the various ways that the truth is manipulated.

An important starting point in preparing our hearts for dialogue is to consider from what sources I get my information.

- Are these sources reputable and longstanding?
- Are they neutral sources or connected with a particular political party or bias?
- Is it possible that I or others are being manipulated by persons or groups who have their own interests in mind?
- How can I check claims that I hear against multiple sources to ensure their accuracy before I share that information?

5 Tips for a Better Kind of Politics

Source: [civizeit.org](http://civizeit.org)



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#### 5. We must get comfortable with a polyhedron.

The polyhedron (a three-dimensional shape with many faces) “represent(s) a society where differences coexist, complementing, enriching and reciprocally illuminating one another, even amid disagreements and reservations.”

“Authentic social dialogue involves the ability to respect the other’s point of view and to admit that it may include legitimate convictions and concerns,” that others “have a contribution to make.”

Polarization results when we erroneously perceive disagreement as contradiction instead of contraposition.

We must dialogue with open hearts and get comfortable with creative tension as we hold simultaneous points of view that don’t fit neatly together but which can yield solutions focused on the common good.

5 Tips for a Better Kind of Politics

Source: [civizeit.org](http://civizeit.org)



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## Conclusion

Building a better kind of politics through social charity will not be a quick, nor easy process. It won't be glamorous.

But if we approach our engagement with these guidelines in mind, and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can arrive together at “a new kind of politics” that produces much fruit to help achieve a common good where all can thrive.

How can we respond to this challenging invitation? One action that every Catholic can take is to take a pledge based on Pope Francis' invitation in Fratelli Tutti.

5 Tips for a Better Kind of Politics

Source: [civizeit.org](http://civizeit.org)



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## I pledge

### Charity

To affirm through my words and actions the dignity of every person, each made in God's image. Even those with whom I disagree are made in his image.

To respectfully listen in order to understand experiences different from my own.

Civilize It: A Better Kind of Politics

Source: [civizeit.org](http://civizeit.org)



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## I pledge

### Clarity

To engage in critical examination to ensure that my perspectives are rooted in truth, that my sources of information are unbiased, and that I do not open myself to manipulation by partisan interests.

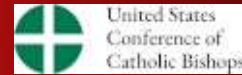
To form my conscience through prayerful reflection, study of scripture and Church teaching, and guidance from reputable experts.

To reflect on my own values and seek, with others, to identify shared values.

To be open to the process of dialogue that can require change of perspective—my own and others’—in service to the inviolable dignity of all and the common good.

**Civilize It: A Better Kind of Politics**

Source: [civilizeit.org](http://civilizeit.org)



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## I pledge

### Creativity

To be a bridgebuilder who participates in constructive dialogue based in shared values, a mutual exchange of gifts, and the humility to together seek the good.

To see differences in perspective as opportunities for creative tension which can yield solutions for the common good.

To work with others in order to identify creative solutions rooted in our shared values.

**Civilize It: A Better Kind of Politics**

Source: [civilizeit.org](http://civilizeit.org)



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## You Should Have Three Handouts

1. Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching
2. Equally Sacred Checklist
3. Presidential Candidate Comparison Resource

## Find Additional Resources at

1. [civilizeit.org](http://civilizeit.org)
2. [networklobby.org](http://networklobby.org)

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