

Catholics and Political Responsibility -- General Resource List

Conciliar and Papal Documents

Gaudium et Spes, Second Vatican Council
Deus Caritas Est (God is Love), Benedict XVI
Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life), John Paul II

Vatican Documents (www.vatican.va)

Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

Considerations Regarding Proposals to Give Legal Recognition to Unions Between Homosexual Persons (2003)
Declaration on Procured Abortion (1974)
Doctrinal Note on Some Questions Regarding the Participation of Catholics in Political Life (2002)
Letter from Cardinal Ratzinger on Worthiness to Receive Communion (2004)
(NB: this was never promulgated by the C.D.F., but was made public and can be found at www.priestsforlife.org/magisterium/bishops/04-07ratzingeromunion.htm)

Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace

Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (www.usccb.org)

A Place at the Table: A Catholic Recommitment to Overcome Poverty and to Respect the Dignity of All God's Children (2002)
Between Man and Woman: Questions and Answers about Marriage and Same-Sex Unions (2003)
Catholics in Political Life (2004)
Everyday Christianity: To Hunger and Thirst for Justice (1999)
Faithful Citizenship (2008 edition upcoming after the Bishops' November 2007 meeting)
Living the Gospel of Life (1998)

Statements by Individual Bishops

Bishop Samuel Aquila (Fargo, ND), "You Will Know the Truth and the Truth Will Set You Free", www.fargodiocese.org/Bishop/Homilies&Messages.htm
Archbishop Raymond Burke (St. Louis, MO), "On our Civic Responsibility for the Common Good", <http://www.archstl.org/commoffice/2004/letters/index.html>
Bishop Paul Loverde (Arlington, VA), "Pre-Election Letter to the People of Arlington", www.catholicherald.com/loverde/2004homilies/election1028.htm
Archbishop John Myers (Newark, NJ), "A Voter's Guide", www.opinionjournal.com/taste/?id=110005634

General Information on Voting and Candidates (Note -- we do not endorse the positions of non-Church organizations or take responsibility for the content of their websites)

Smartvoter.org -- identifies your candidates, your polling place, etc. (from the NY League of Women Voters)
Ontheissues.org -- tracks the positions of the candidates on a range of issues (includes a "vote match" quiz that will match your positions with the candidates)
Realclearpolitics.com -- broad survey of current polls
Register to Vote Online -- www.nyscatholic.org (click on "Take Action", then on the "Election and Candidates" tab, then use the "Voter Registration" tool to choose New York)

Family Life/Respect Life Office, 212-371-1011, x.2807 www.flrl.org/PublicPolicy.htm emechmann@archny.org
--