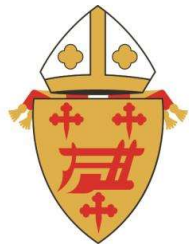


# iVoteCatholic

**Leader Launch 2026**



— ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI —  
**CATHOLIC SOCIAL  
ACTION OFFICE**



— CENTER FOR —  
**PARISH VITALITY**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

# iVoteCatholic

## **Agenda for today**

- Welcome, Prayer, Introductions
- What is iVoteCatholic and why should you use it?
- 7 Principles of Catholic Social Teaching
- Walk-through website
- How to use it?
- Q&A
- Upcoming events
- Closing Prayer

# iVoteCatholic

Divided and afraid. Lazy and disrespectful. Partisan.  
We are called to be something MORE.

Our allegiance is with Jesus,  
and we should vote with our faith.

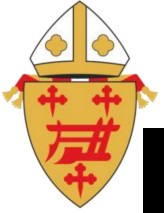
**Resources for anyone. Respect for everyone.  
Live out our Gospel call.**



— ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI —  
CATHOLIC SOCIAL  
ACTION OFFICE



— CENTER FOR —  
PARISH VITALITY  
ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI



## The Why and What of iVoteCatholic

**iVote**Catholic



## The Why and What of iVoteCatholic





# iVoteCatholic

Life & Dignity of the Human Person

## **Related issues:**

- Abortion
- Death penalty
- Immigration
- Human Trafficking
- Racism
- H B 72/SB 134 – No State Funded Death
- Human life is sacred
- This is the foundation of a moral vision for society
- It is undermined when the creation of human life is reduced to the manufacture of a product (genetic engineering, cloning)
- Every person is precious, people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.



# iVoteCatholic

Family, Community & Participation

## **Related issues:**

- Protection of Minority Communities
- Family Support
- Voting access
- The person is not only sacred but also social
- Society affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community
- The family is the central social institution
- Human beings grow and achieve fulfillment in community
- People have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking the common good, especially the poor and vulnerable
- Government and other institutions must protect human life and human dignity and promote the common good



# iVoteCatholic

## Rights & Responsibilities

### **Related issues:**

- Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship
- Advocacy
- Human dignity and a healthy community are achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met
- All people have a right to life and to those things required for human decency
- With rights comes duties and responsibilities—to one another, to our families, and to the larger society
- Both personal responsibility and social responsibilities are necessary



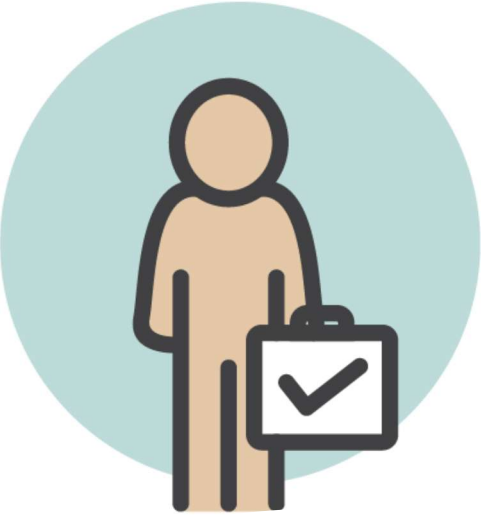
# iVoteCatholic

Option for the Poor & Vulnerable

**Related issues:**

- Hunger
- Housing & Homelessness
- Mothers, children, and elderly
- Returning Citizens

- A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring
- The story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first



# iVoteCatholic

Dignity of Work & Rights of Workers

## **Related issues:**

- Fair wages & Wage theft
- Pay Stub Protection Act
- Returning Citizens
- AI
- The economy must serve people
- Work is more than making a living; it is continuing participation in God's creation
- Respect the basic rights of workers—productive work, decent and fair wages, organize and join unions, and economic initiative
- Promotes an economy that protects human life, defends human rights, and advances the well-being of all



# iVoteCatholic

## Solidarity

### **Related issues:**

- Immigration
- International war and violence

- We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they live
- We are one human family
- "Loving our neighbor" has global dimensions
- John Paul II: "a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all" (*Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*, no. 38).



# iVoteCatholic

Care for God's Creation

**Related issues:**

- Water conservation
- Fracking
- Sustainable energy
- Composting, recycling
- AI data centers
- We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation
- We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation
- This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored

iVoteCatholic

# Website walkthrough

## iVoteCatholic

Inspired by Faithful Citizenship

### Relaunch for 2026!

Join us on April 28 at 10:30am or May 7 at 1:30pm to learn about the updated resources available for parish and school leaders. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

### Catholic Political Participation

#### Witnessing to the Gospel

We are called to live our faith in all aspects of our lives, but – when it comes to voting – this can be difficult. During this election season, immerse yourself in the worldwide Church's life and teaching. Gain a fuller understanding of the Church's commitment to a consistent ethic of life which guides us to be advocates for a variety of issues related to life and human dignity. Of course, not every issue is morally equivalent, not every proposal is equally a direct moral threat, nor can commitment to one issue excuse indifference to the rest. The complexities of political process in a diverse society require prudence. We will not be telling you for whom or what to vote. Rather, to inform your vote we encourage prayer, study, shared discernment, listening to those who are most vulnerable, and drawing closer to the sacred heart of Jesus, which burns with love of all humanity. Before exploring the resources, we invite you to read more about the US Bishops' teaching on voting decisions and learn how this initiative came to be.

*To read more about the guidance the U.S. Bishops offer on voting in divided, polarized times, click the 'From the Bishops' button below. To watch a video of the webinar relaunching and explaining iVoteCatholic in 2024, click the 'Initiative History' button.*

FROM THE BISHOPS

INITIATIVE HISTORY



# iVoteCatholic

“I am disheartened that the President chose to write such disparaging words about the Holy Father. Pope Leo is not his rival; nor is the Pope a politician. He is the Vicar of Christ who speaks from the truth of the Gospel and for the care of souls.”

Archbishop Paul S. Coakley, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops



— ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI —  
CATHOLIC SOCIAL  
ACTION OFFICE



— CENTER FOR —  
PARISH VITALITY  
ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

iVoteCatholic

## Resources by theme



Family, Community,  
& Participation



Dignity of Work  
& Rights of Workers



Option for the Poor  
& Vulnerable



Life & Dignity of the  
Human Person



Solidarity



Rights & Responsibilities



Care for God's Creation

We've organized the resources for the seven themes as a seven-week series, but the presentation to your community can happen in multiple ways. For example, you might choose to focus on each theme on a week where the gospel message matches up, or you might choose to change the order based on other ministries being highlighted at different times. We encourage you to share these resources in the manner and order best suited to your community, and we stand ready to work with you on any additional or re-worked materials you might need.



ARCHDIOCESE OF  
CINCINNATI

# Resources by week

## Weekly Focus

**Week 1**

**Life & Dignity of the Human Person:** Human life is a gift from God and therefore sacred. We must protect the life and dignity of every human person at every stage of life.

[LEARN MORE](#)



**iVoteCatholic**

Life & Dignity of the Human Person

**Week 2**

**Rights & Responsibilities:** Human dignity can be protected and a healthy community achieved only if human rights are defended and responsibilities met.

[LEARN MORE](#)



**iVoteCatholic**

Rights & Responsibilities

**Week 3**

**Family, Community, & Participation:** Each human person is not only sacred but also social.

[LEARN MORE](#)



**iVoteCatholic**

Family, Community & Participation

**Week 4**

**Option for the Poor & Vulnerable:** Giving priority concern to those on the margins strengthens the health of the whole society.

[LEARN MORE](#)



**iVoteCatholic**

Option for the Poor & Vulnerable

iVoteCatholic

# Resources by type

## Resources

What We Believe ^

-   
Family, Community, & Participation
-   
Dignity of Work & Rights of Workers
-   
Option for the Poor & Vulnerable
-   
Life & Dignity of the Human Person
-   
Solidarity
-   
Rights & Responsibilities
-   
Care for God's Creation

Liturgical Resources v

Communication Tools v

Teachers & Parents v

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

# iVoteCatholic

## Each theme



## iVoteCatholic

Life & Dignity of the Human Person

The Church teaches that we are all created in the image and likeness of God. Because of this fact, every human life is sacred. Every life is worth living. There is nothing anyone can do to take this dignity away. All of our Catholic social teaching flows from this principle. People are more important than things.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

LITURGICAL RESOURCES

COMMUNICATION TOOLS

TEACHERS & PARENTS

Life & Dignity of the Human Person

## Guiding Principles

As a gift from God, every human life is sacred from conception to natural death. The life and dignity of every person must be respected and protected at every stage and in every condition. The right to life is the first and most fundamental principle of human rights and leads Catholics to actively work for a world of greater respect for human life and greater commitment to justice and peace.

## Related Social Issues

- abortion
- racism
- war and terrorism
- the death penalty
- assisted suicide



LEARN MORE

## Liturgical Resources

↑ SCRIPTURAL ROOTS

↑ 2024 Connections to Gospel Readings

↑ Novena & USCCB Election Year Prayer

Intentions for the Universal Prayer



Musical Suggestions



## Communication Tools

Bulletin Notices



Social Media Posts



## Teachers & Parents

📖 LESSON PLANS AND ACTIVITIES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



# Scriptural Connections



08/04/24	18th Sunday in OT	John 6:24-35 Bread of Life, work of God	Call to Family, Community, & Participation; Solidarity
08/11/24	19th Sunday in OT	John 6:41-51 bread of Life discourse; Eph: be kind to one another; Kings: migration	Option for the Poor & Vulnerable; Migration (FCFC)
08/15/24	Assumption	Luke 1:39-56 Magnificat: raising the lowly	Option for the Poor & Vulnerable
08/19/24	20th Sunday in OT	John 6:51-58 Gospel-eating Jesus' flesh	Life & Dignity of the Human Person; Solidarity
08/26/24	21st Sunday in OT	John 6:60-69 Jesus knew who wouldn't believe and would betray him	Rights & Responsibilities
09/01/24	22nd Sunday in OT	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 eating and purification laws; call to be doers	Rights & Responsibilities; FCFC: Well-formed Conscience Note: World Day of Prayer for Creation
09/02/24	Labor Day	Luke 4:16-30 glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives; scripture fulfilled better to cut off hand/foot	Life & Dignity of the Human Person; Dignity of Work & the Rights of Workers
09/08/24	23rd Sunday in OT	Mark 7:31-37 Curing the deaf man	Call to Family, Community, & Participation; Life & Dignity of the Human Person; Solidarity; persons with disabilities; solidarity with the poor
09/15/24	24th Sunday in OT	Mark 8:27-35 James warning against selfish ambition; James: no coat, keep warm	Option for the Poor & Vulnerable; Rights & Responsibilities
09/22/24	25th Sunday in OT	Mark 9:30-37 James warning against selfish ambition	Promoting the common good
09/29/24	26th Sunday in OT	Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48 better to cut off hand/foot	Life & Dignity of the Human Person; Solidarity; Moses & Jesus preach inclusion; World

<b>Dignity of the Human Person</b>	Gen 1: 26-31 God created man and woman in His own image	Deut 10:17-19 God loves the orphan, the widow and the stranger	Psalms 139: 13-16 God formed each of us and knows us intimately	Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you	Proverbs 22:2 The Lord is the maker of both rich and poor.
<b>Rights &amp; Responsibilities</b>	Isaiah 1:16-17: Seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.	Leviticus 19:9-10 A portion of the harvest is set aside for the poor and the stranger.	Ruth 2:2-23 Boaz cares for Ruth, a widow and a foreigner, giving her far more than the law requires.	Tobit 4:5-11 Give from what you have received and do not turn away from the poor.	Isaiah 1:16-17 Seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow
<b>Care for Creation</b>	Genesis 1:1-31 God made the heavens and the earth and it was good.	Genesis 2:15 Humans are commanded to care for God's creation	Leviticus 25:1-7 The land itself must be given a rest and not abused.	Deuteronomy 10:14 All of heaven and earth belong to the Lord.	Psalms 24:1-2 All the earth is the Lord's
<b>Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers</b>	Deuteronomy 5:13-15 The Sabbath is for everyone—all are allowed to rest from their work.	Deuteronomy 14:28-29 The Lord blesses our work so that we may share its fruits with others	Sirach 34:20-22 To deprive an employee of wages is to commit murder	Isaiah 58:3-7 To observe religious practices, but oppress your workers is false worship.	Matthew 20:1-16 All workers should be paid a just and living wage.
<b>Solidarity</b>	Psalms 72 Living in right relationship with others brings peace	Zechariah 8:16 These are the things you should do: Speak truth, judge well, make peace.	Isaiah 1:16-17: Seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.	Luke 16:19-31: The rich man has a responsibility to care for Lazarus.	James 2:14-18: Faith without works is dead.
<b>Preferential Option for and with the Poor</b>	Exodus 22:20-26 You shall not oppress the poor or vulnerable. God will hear their cry.	Leviticus 19:9-10 A portion of the harvest is set aside for the poor and the stranger.	Job 34:20-28 The Lord hears the cry of the poor.	Proverbs 31:8-9 Speak out in defense of the poor.	Sirach 4:1-10 Don't delay giving to those in need.
<b>Family, Community, &amp; Participation</b>	Acts 2:43-47 Disciples of Christ shared their food and possessions to make sure the neediest among them were taken care of	Leviticus 25:23-43 What you own belongs to the Lord and is given for the good of all.	Jeremiah 7:5-7 If you act justly with one another, God will dwell in the land.	Micah 6:6-8 Act justly, love kindness, walk humbly with God.	Hebrews 10:24-25 Rouse one another to love and good works.

# Liturgical Resources

## A Novena of Intercessions for Election Season

- For candidates:** God of mercy, we lift in prayer those who are running for public office. We pray that they may be guided by the Spirit to work for the common good in a spirit of humility and compassion, speaking truth in the pursuit justice.
- For voters:** God of wisdom, we pray for those who will cast their votes. May they carefully and prayerfully discern their choices.
- For policies that uphold the dignity of human life:** Creator of life, not to be jeopardized in so many ways in our world. As voters study the candidates for office and research ballot issues, may they always be aware of the impacts of their decisions on the right of every person not just to be heard but to be heard.
- For persons of faith to set an example of love:** God of peace, may we remember the call to love our neighbors as Your beloved children.
- For healing of divisions:** God of all, our nation has become divided by partisanship in ways that impair our ability to cooperate and to witness to Christ in every person. As we move through this election season, may we strive to build a spirit of understanding, compassion and respect for those with whom we disagree.

## iVoteCatholic Sample Intentions for the Universal Prayer

*In addition to the usual intentions for the local community, please consider the following which correspond to both the readings of the day and the Catholic Social Teaching theme.*

### WEEK 1 Family, Communication, & Participation



- For our families and communities: may we be people of mercy and forgiveness
- For parents and their children: may we learn compassion and kindness from Jesus
- For elected officials: may they ensure the rights of prisoners...

### WEEK 2 Dignity of Work & Rights of Workers



- For a greater respect for the dignity of work and the rights of workers...
- For employers: may they foster workplaces of dignity and respect...
- For governments all over the world: may they uphold the common good and ensure a decent wage for those who labor...

## iVoteCatholic Hymn/Song Text Suggestions

### WEEK 1 Family, Communication, & Participation



Diverse in Culture, Nation, Race	Duck	GIA
A Place At The Table	Alonso	GIA
When We Are Living	Escamilla	WLP
Where Charity and Love Prevail	Benoit	Various
The Master Came to Bring Good News	Finn	GIA
The Reign of God	Dufner	GIA
Forgive Our Sins, As We Forgive	Herklots	Various
For the Beauty of the Earth	Pierpont	Various
God is Here! As We His People	Green	Hope
The Church of Christ in Every Age	Green	Hope
Ubi Caritas	Traditional	Various

### WEEK 2 Dignity of Work & Rights of Workers



Called to Labor in God's Vineyard	Chepponis	GIA
Christ is Made the Sure Foundation	Neale	Various
For the Fruits of All Creation	Green	Hope
God Whose Giving Knows No Ending	Edwards	Hope
God Our Father You Have Granted	Stuempfle	GIA
Lord of All Hopefulness	Struther	Oxford/GIA
The Master Came to Bring Good News	Finn	GIA
God Of Our Salvation	Norbet	WLP
Those Who Love and Those Who Labor	Dearmer	Oxford/OCF

## Formation Resources

# iVoteCatholic

## Discussion Questions

### Family, Community, and Participation:

- What communities are you a part of?
- What makes up a family?
- What do you think God desires for families/communities? What do you think God desires from families/communities?
- What is your role to play as an individual in your community/family? What role does your family play in society as a whole?
- What happens when we do not participate in our community/family?
- How do broken communities/families affect society?

### Dignity of Work/ Rights of Workers:

- As a consumer, am I supporting companies that give their laborers a just wage?
- What do I think about the dignity of work?
- Have you ever experienced a working condition that was unjust? How so, and what did you do about it?
- How do you use your gifts at your workplace? How do you feel after a long day's work?
- Do you live to work, or do you work to live?
- Do you appreciate the gift of work in your life? Do you respect the gift of work in your life?



**iVoteCatholic**  
Life & Dignity of the Human Person

## Lesson Plans & Activities

### Activity 1:

- Explain to your children how as Catholics we believe in the dignity of every human person, that respect for life expands from birth until natural death. As a family, pray about whose dignity is not being upheld whether it's the elderly, the unborn, the incarcerated, etc. Brainstorm a way that you as a family can affirm their dignity, whether it is writing letters, phone calls, visiting, or serving that group.

### Activity 2:

- Sometimes, we fall short of respecting the dignity of the other in our relationships, or we do not affirm each other's dignity enough. As a family talk about ways in which you feel like your dignity has been violated or you have violated someone else's dignity? What are ways that you can repair that? Make a resolution as a family how you will work to uphold the dignity of each member starting today. How do we as a family uphold or degrade each other's dignity?

# Communications Resources

## Social Media Posts



### Week 1: Family, Community and Participation

The person is not only sacred but also social. Family must be supported, and people have a right & duty to participate in society for social problems are best addressed by community networks.



The family forms people in love and remains open to the community, moved by a sense of justice and concern for others. *St. John Paul II, Familiaris Consortio, no.64*



### Week 2: Dignity of Work & Rights of Workers

Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation.

...work is of fundamental importance to the fulfillment of the human being and to the development of society. *Pope Benedict XVI, Apostolic Exhortation on the Eucharist, 2007 no. 74*

The obligation to earn one's bread by the sweat of one's brow also presumes the right to do so. *St. John Paul II, Centesimus Annus, no. 43*

### Life & Dignity of the Human Person



**iVoteCatholic:** During this fourth week, we focus on the Life and Dignity of the Human Person which is also the focus of Respect Life Sunday. The Church teaches that we are all created in the image and likeness of God. Because of this fact, every human life is sacred. Every life is worth living. There is nothing anyone can do to take this dignity away. All of our Catholic social teaching flows from this principle. People are more important than things. Under this principle fall issues such as abortion, racism, war and terrorism, the death penalty, and assisted suicide. **Find out more at [www.iVoteCatholic.org](http://www.iVoteCatholic.org).**

### Solidarity



**iVoteCatholic:** During this fifth week, we focus on Solidarity. We believe that every human person was created by the same God. Ultimately, we are all brothers and sisters. We are all connected. As one human family, we are deeply connected to people around the world—wherever they may be. Because we are one, we are affected by the joy and suffering of all. "If one member of Christ's body suffers, all suffer. If one member is honored, all rejoice." (1 Cor. 12:12–26). Living in solidarity means that we take action to make sure that every member of our human family is living in conditions that honor human dignity. Under this principle fall issues such as immigration, refugees, homelessness, foreign aid, global policy and empowerment, and religious freedom. **Find out more at [www.iVoteCatholic.org](http://www.iVoteCatholic.org).**

# iVoteCatholic Leader Resources

Home > Offices > Catholic Social Action > Justice Issues > Faithful Citizenship > iVoteCatholic Parish Leader Playbook

## IVOTECATHOLIC PARISH LEADER PLAYBOOK



# iVoteCatholic

iVoteCatholic is a digital resource to help form consciences for faithful citizenship, organized around the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching.

If you're looking for the best and easiest ways to utilize the multiple resources from iVoteCatholic in your Family of Parishes, you've come to the right place. Below you will find an example of a weekly plan that can be replicated for each of the seven weeks, regardless of the order you choose is bes your Family of Parishes. You can choose to do everything suggested, or you can only use the parts that make the most sense for you. Whatever you we're so thankful that you're sharing these resources, and please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or suggestions.

Here's a [sample plan](#) to use during the 2026 election season.  
The plan runs from late August to mid October.



**iVoteCatholic**  
Life & Dignity of the Human Person



**iVoteCatholic**  
Family, Community & Participati

### Sample Week

Here's a simple plug and play option you can use with any of the themes. The resources for all of these ideas are linked below.

- Insert the Bulletin Announcement in the Sunday bulletin.
- Include the sample intention(s) in the Universal Prayer at Mass (e.g. petitions, general intercessions)
- Get your youth leaders the Activities for Youth and your group leaders (not matter the group) the Discussion Questions.
- Urge catechists to incorporate the weekly theme into religion class.
- Share the Musical Suggestions with your worship team.
- Encourage priests and deacons to connect their homilies to the assigned theme.

1. **Monday – share (via social media or other means) the theme for the week.** Example: *Life & Dignity of the Human Person – The Church teaches that we are all created in the image and likeness of God. Because of this fact, every human life is sacred. Every life is worth living. There is nothing anyone can do to take this dignity away.*
2. **Tuesday – share a social media post.** Example: *Society as a whole must respect, defend and promote the dignity of the human person, at every moment and in every condition of that person's life. St John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae, no. 81*
3. **Wednesday – encourage people to prayerfully consider topics influenced by the Church's teachings on the topic.** Example: *As we delve into the Church's commitment to the Life & Dignity of the Human Person, consider the Church's position on issues such as abortion, the death penalty, physician assisted suicide, racism, and war and where different political candidates stand on these issues.*
4. **Thursday – share another social media post.** Example: *We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.*
5. **Friday – offer a discussion question or two to consider as they enter the weekend.** Example: *What does it mean to be pro-life from conception to natural death? How have you fallen short of upholding someone else's dignity?*



## IVOTECATHOLIC RESOURCES



# iVoteCatholic

## Other Resources

### Additional Resources



Archdiocese of Cincinnati | Faithful Citizenship  
<http://www.catholicaoc.org/faithfulcitizenship>

USCCB Catholic Social Teaching  
<http://usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/index.cfm>

USCCB Catholic Social Teaching resources  
<https://wearesaltandlight.org/>

USCCB Catholic Social Teaching prayers  
<https://wearesaltandlight.org/pray-together/prayers-dignity-and-life>

Connecting Catholic Social Teaching & the Ten Commandments  
<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/human-dignity/teaching-aid-colecci.cfm>

### Election Topic Videos (from Catholic Social Action Office and partners)



iVoteCatholic

## How To Use iVoteCatholic

---

Seven  
consecutive  
weeks or every  
other week

Seven  
weeks leading  
up to the  
election

Whatever  
works for your  
family of  
parishes



ARCHDIOCESE OF  
CINCINNATI





**FORMING  
CONSCIENCES**  
FOR **FAITHFUL  
CITIZENSHIP**

**CIVILIZE IT**



**DIGNITY BEYOND THE DEBATE**



Mary, Mother of the Church and our Mother,  
present our prayer of thanksgiving to your Son.  
Beg from Him the graces we need to be faithful disciples  
who follow Him with enthusiasm and joy.  
May our witness to the love of God bear fruit  
in our archdiocese, parishes, homes and hearts.  
Teach us to be God's joyful witnesses,  
to radiate Christ in all we do,  
so that all people might know, love and follow your Son  
through this life and into the next.  
Amen.



ARCHDIOCESE OF  
CINCINNATI