



The Most Reverend Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
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Dear Pastors, PLCs & Parish Administrators of Religious Education:

Jesus, in His great mercy, reaches out to us in many ways. I would like to remind you about a specific resource that was introduced at the Clergy/PLC Spring Business Meeting and encourage you to use it in the weeks and months that lead to the November elections. This resource will be useful for parishioners ranging from middle-schoolers to adults.

The document *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States* is a teaching document of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on the political responsibility of Catholics. I ask that you encourage those entrusted to your pastoral care to use this resource along with the reflection and discussion items available at this link: usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship.

Acting on the guidance that comes to us in prayer is important in the daily life of each Christian and so I propose the following:

- Please do vote in the coming general election.
- Please help those who are not yet of voting age become aware of our political process as well as our moral responsibility in the face of the many pressing issues our nation now faces.
- Encourage your fellow faithful citizens to consider whether our Lord might be calling them to public service in the form of running for an elected office.
- Avoid adding fuel to the fire of negative public polemics by focusing on ideas and issues rather than repeating the character assassination that often passes for political debate.
- Get your news from a variety of reliable sources including archindy.org/criterion and archindy.org/faithfulcitizenship.

Above all, I ask you to continue to pray for the United States of America as we discern together how to live our nation's motto "In God we trust." May your focused use of the document *Faithful Citizenship* produce the fruit of peace, justice and prosperity by the grace of almighty God. Grateful for your share in my mission of teaching the Faith, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ our Redeemer,

Most Rev. Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.
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