



Diocesan Social Action Office

September 2008

Dear Pastoral Leaders:

Welcome to Phase 3 of our program of materials providing awareness, education and reflection for the USCCB document, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility*. This resource is short and to the point since we are in the final stretch before the election. All these materials are available for download from our web site, www.catholic-action.org.

We hope that you will continue with the last sections of Phase 2. These consist of a Faithful Citizenship Corner in your bulletin in which you offer a quote from the document every week and a once a month bulletin insert on related topics. These are based on the themes of the document in a progressive order and reflect the Catholic Catechism as well as the document. Again, inserts can be downloaded and printed from our web site or copied from this booklet. Topics left include:

September: using the pastoral circle with issues

October: abortion and the dignity of human life, family life, social justice and global solidarity

Additionally, we have included from the previous phase, the insert on the life issues of abortion, stem cell research and euthanasia as well as the one on racism. The sheet on how a Catholic can prepare to vote may also be used as a bulletin insert.

We have included the discussion guide first found in Phase 2. If we are to really consider the common good, the Pledge for Civil Dialogue and discussions around issues are important. There are more guides on the USCCB web site, www.faithfulcitizenship.org. In all our efforts to implement Faithful citizenship, we must remember to remain completely nonpartisan. A review of the legal guidelines has been included. The questions for voting and the issue pages from the Ohio Catholic Conference could be included in your bulletins.

All our materials are available for download from our web site. We also have information on voting absentee and voter registration. Please visit www.catholic-action.org. We hope you will encourage your parishioners to visit the Ohio Catholic Conference web site, www.ohiocathconf.org, and the USCCB web site, www.faithfulcitizenship.org, often. They are constantly being updated. The USCCB site has wonderful materials and lesson plans for all ages as well as suggestions for discussion in families. As the bishops point out, conscience formation is essential if we are to vote with prudence and in the interest of the common good.

Sincerely,

The Diocesan Social Action Staff

