Faithful Citizenship:

A Personal and Community Responsibility

I. Speak

1. Promote the Pledge for Civil Dialogue (available in both English and Spanish).
2. Let family, friends and coworkers know about the Bishops' document, ***Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship***, and its availability.
3. If you have some area of expertise connected to an election issue, offer to speak to a group or join diocesan staff in presenting programs.
4. Encourage groups to discuss issues and evaluate the common good.
5. Let others know that all resource materials are downloadable from the Diocesan Social Action Office web site, www.catholic-action.org.

II. Convene

1. Gather coworkers for a lunch discussion of an issue or one part of the document.
2. Get the place, the people, etc. and call the Diocesan Social Action Office for a speaker.
3. Encourage your pastor to sponsor a program or discussion groups.
4. Start a voter registration drive. For the general election, the deadline for registering is October 6th.
5. Encourage your pastor or supervisor to have absentee ballot applications available and gather a group that promotes these, especially for the elderly.

III. Distribute

1. Find a place to post or distribute our one sheet educational materials for each month.
2. Post and pass out copies of the Pledge for Civil dialogue.
3. Organize an outreach to seniors, helping with educational materials and absentee ballot applications.

Faithful Citizenship: Available Resources

From the United States Catholic Conference (www.usccb.org or www.faithfulcitizenship.org):

- Full text of the document in both English and Spanish
- Summary of the document in both English and Spanish
- One page, two-sided bulletin insert in both English and Spanish
- Suggestions for homilists
- Prayer and reflection
- Lesson plans for elementary, high school, and adult levels on Catholic Social Teaching and issues
- Action suggestions
- Links to other documents

From the Catholic Conference of Ohio (www.ohiocathconf.org)

- Positions on issues
- Voting guidelines
- Questions to consider

From the diocesan Social Action Office (www.catholic-action.org)

- Pledge for Civil Dialogue in both English and Spanish
- A summary of the document in both English and Spanish
- Reflection on Catholics in an Election Year in both English and Spanish
- Quotes for the Faithful Citizenship corner of your bulletin
- Bulletin inserts on topics from the document as well as issues
- Bulletin inserts on conscience formation and Catholic Social Teaching
- Discussion and prayer guides
- Prayers for election time
- Background materials on important topics
- A prepared staff for your programs and questions

For further resources on Faithful Citizenship:

Karen Leith, Diocesan Education & Training Center for Social Justice, 330-535-2787 or kpl7@aol.com
Tom Allio, Diocesan Social Action Office, 888-620-5280 or tjallio@clevelandcatholiccharities.org
Len Calabrese, Commission on Catholic Community Action, 216-939-3839 or lmcalabrese@clevelandcatholiccharities.org
Sharon Kleppel, Catholic Commission of Lorain County, 440-244-6037 or smkleppel@clevelandcatholiccharities.org
Patrick O'Bryan, Catholic Commission of Wayne, Ashland & Medina, 330-263-6176 or pjobryan@clevelandcatholiccharities.org
J. Rocky Ortiz, CCHD/CRS, 440-245-5043 or jrortiz@clevelandcatholiccharities.org
Jerome Walcott, Catholic Commission of Lake and Geauga, 440-943-7608 or jwalcott@clevelandcatholiccharities.org