



Faithful Citizenship: Dignity of the Human Person

In *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, the Catholic bishops of the U.S. identify the four main principles of the Church's social teaching—Dignity of the Human Person, the Common Good, Solidarity, and Subsidiarity—and apply them to concrete issues. This is not to tell the faithful for whom or against whom to vote but to provide a foundation for Catholics to better evaluate policies, platforms, and candidates in light of the Gospel and the Church's moral and social teaching. This entry focuses on the Dignity of the Human Person.



Because each human person is created in the image and likeness of God, each one of us possesses innate and inviolable human dignity. This dignity is present in each person from the moment of their conception and throughout their lives. As Pope Francis has emphasized, human dignity is central to building a society where we are “brothers and sisters all” (*Fratelli Tutti*, no. 8).

We engage in the public square with a foundation of human dignity that:

- Protects the most vulnerable—children in the womb who are in danger of abortion—while also standing in radical solidarity with mothers.¹
- Upholds the dignity of the elderly, disabled, or ill by strongly rejecting euthanasia and assisted suicide.
- Recognizes migrants and refugees through immigration reform that respects human dignity, provides a path to citizenship, and addresses the root causes of migration.
- Supports the dignity of the person, created male or female, and opposes an ideology that denies the difference and reciprocity between man and woman.²
- Overcomes racism in our hearts as well as in our systems and institutions, which denies that we are all equally made in the image of God.³
- Continues seeking reform of the criminal justice system, ends the use of the death penalty, and supports measures to reduce the threat of gun violence.⁴

Through our political participation, accompaniment of those in need, and the witness of our daily lives, may we support the dignity of every person created in God's image.



Learn more about *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* at:
www.faithfulcitizenship.org

1. USCCB, “Letter and Policy Recommendations Supporting Women and Children,” October 26, 2022.
2. Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love)*, no. 56.
3. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love*, 3-8.
4. Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, nos. 263-270. See also: *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, no. 84.