
Are there any “non-negotiable” issues for Catholics?

“There are several issues that are “not negotiable” for Catholics in political life, because they involve matters that are always wrong given their nature. Among these the following emerge clearly today:

“Protection of life in all its stages, from the first moment of conception until natural death; Recognition and promotion of the natural structure of the family—as a union between a man and a woman based on marriage—and its defense from attempts to make it juridically equivalent to radically different forms of union which in reality harm it and contribute to its destabilization, obscuring its particular character and its irreplaceable social role; The protection of the rights of parents to educate their children.”

(**Bishop Thomas Olmsted**, *Catholics in the Public Square*)

"Among the evils and injustices in American life in 2016, abortion and euthanasia are different and stand apart. Each is a direct, personal attack on innocent and vulnerable human life. Abortion and euthanasia function in our society as what the Catechism of the Catholic Church calls 'structures of sin' or 'social sins.'

"It is this broader mentality — what Francis and previous popes have called a “culture of death”— that the Church must confront. That is why abortion and euthanasia are not just two issues among many or only questions of individual conscience.

"Abortion and euthanasia are “fundamental” social issues because if the child in the womb has no right to be born, if the sick and the old have no right to be taken care of, then there is no solid foundation to defend anyone’s human rights, and no foundation for peace and justice in society."

(**Archbishop Jose H. Gomez**, *Catholics in the Public Square*, Forward section)



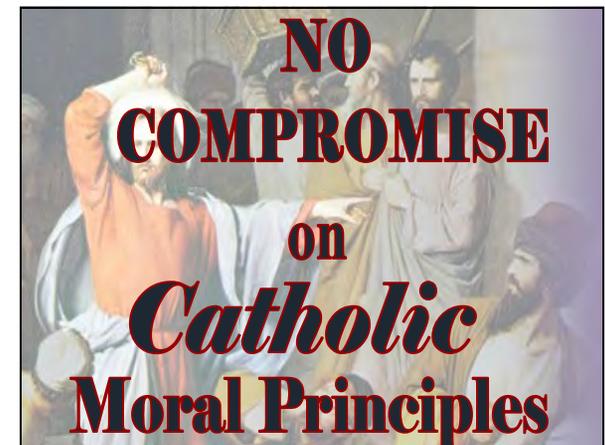
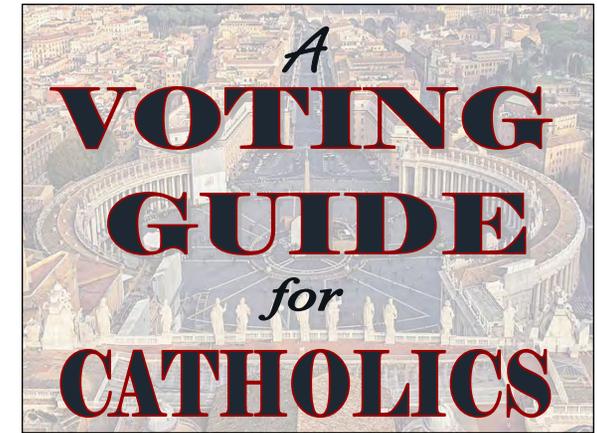
Catholics represent 22% of the U.S. population. This means 1 out of 5 Americans profess to be Catholic. While it appears the Catholic vote may play an important part in the election of candidates to high office, there is no solid Catholic voting bloc according to John White of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Catholics have been voting in large percentages for candidates of both major political parties over the past few decades. Factors such as age, gender, ethnic, and economic background account for much of the difference in voting trends. All Catholics should be informed of Church teachings, about political issues, seek advice when necessary, and pray before voting. VOTE WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE!

Elections Have Consequences

Over the next four years, the President and U.S. Senate we send to Washington next January will nominate and confirm the replacement of Antonin Scalia who passed away early this year and potentially one or two more justices. The majority of judges on the Supreme Court and many federal courts during the last eight years has shifted to extreme judicial activists with devastating consequences. Marriage has been redefined to include same sex couples. Reasonable state regulations on abortion to protect the safety of women have been swept away by the High Court. The courts have sided with unions to force employees to pay dues and have stifled voter ID laws. Legalizing euthanasia, human cloning, destruction of human embryos and creation of human-animal chimeras may in the near future be declared fed-



“Among the vulnerable for whom the Church wishes to care with particular love and concern are unborn children, the most defenseless and innocent among us.” Pope Francis



**Concerned Catholics
of
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The U.S. Bishops' Statement on political responsibility

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship

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The Five Non-Negotiable Issues

"Catholics must avoid voting for any candidate who intends to support programs or laws that are intrinsically evil. These five issues concern actions that are intrinsically evil and must never be promoted by law.

"Intrinsically evil actions are those that fundamentally conflict with the moral law and can never be performed under any circumstances. It is a serious sin to deliberately endorse or promote any of these actions, and no candidate who really wants to advance the common good will support any action contrary to the non-negotiable principles involved in these issues." *Voter's Guide for Serious Catholics, Catholic Answers, 2016*

1. Abortion



"I feel the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion."

St. Mother Teresa

"The Church teaches that, regarding a law permitting abortions, it is "never licit to obey it, or to take part in a propaganda campaign in favor of such a law, or to vote for it" (*Evangelium Vitae*, 73, Gospel of Life, St. John Paul II). Abortion is the intentional and direct killing of an innocent human being, and therefore it is a form of homicide.

"The unborn child is always an innocent party, and no law may permit the taking of his life. Even when a child is conceived through rape or incest, the fault is not the child's, who should not suffer death for others' sins."

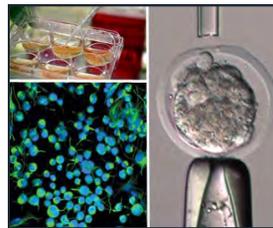
2. Euthanasia



Terri Schiavo

"Often disguised by the name "mercy killing," euthanasia is also a form of homicide. No person has a right to take his own life, and no one has the right to take the life of any innocent person. In euthanasia, the ill or elderly are killed, by action or omission, out of a misplaced sense of compassion, but true compassion cannot include intentionally doing something intrinsically evil to another person (cf. EV 73)."

3. Embryonic Stem Cell Research



"Human embryos are human beings. "Respect for the dignity of the human being excludes all experimental manipulation or exploitation of the human embryo" (Pontifical Council for the Family, *Charter of the Rights of the Family*, 4b).

"Recent scientific advances show that often medical treatments that researchers hope to develop from experimentation on embryonic stem cells can be developed by using adult stem cells instead. Adult stem cells can be obtained without doing harm to the adults from whom they come. Thus there is no valid medical argument in favor of using embryonic stem cells. And even if there were benefits to be had from such experiments, they would not justify destroying innocent embryonic humans."



4. Human Cloning



"Attempts . . . for obtaining a human being without any connection with sexuality through 'twin fission,' cloning, or parthenogenesis are to be considered contrary to the moral law, since they are in opposition to the dignity both of human procreation and of the conjugal union"

(Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation*, I:6).

"Human cloning also involves abortion because the rejected" or "unsuccessful" embryonic clones are destroyed, yet each clone is a human being."

5. Homosexual "Marriage"



"True marriage is the union of one man and one woman. Legal recognition of any other union as "marriage" undermines true marriage, and legal recognition of homosexual unions

actually does homosexual persons a disfavor by encouraging them to persist in what is an objectively immoral arrangement.

"When legislation in favor of the recognition of homosexual unions is proposed for the first time in a legislative assembly, the Catholic lawmaker has a moral duty to express his opposition clearly and publicly and to vote against it. To vote in favor of a law so harmful to the common good is gravely immoral."

(Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Considerations regarding Proposals to Give Legal Recognition to Unions between Homosexual Persons*, 10).