



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WEEKLY

from
Americans for Freedom of Religion

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Forming Faithful Consciences to Choose God's Truth with Faith, Love and Courage

From the teaching of Pope St. John Paul II: "We are facing an enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil, death and life, the 'culture of death' and the 'culture of life'.we are all involved and we all share in it, with the inescapable responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally pro-life."

Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1995), no. 28

On Mar. 13, 2007, Pope Benedict XVI issued an Apostolic Exhortation, *Sacramentum Caritatis*, which speaks directly to each Catholic challenged to navigate the secular culture while holding to the teachings of the Catholic church.

Sacramentum Caritatis teaches us, "Worship pleasing to God can never be a purely private matter, without consequences for our relationships with others," he said, "it demands a public witness to our faith." "Evidently, this is true for all the baptized, yet it is especially incumbent upon those who, by virtue of their social or political position, must make decisions regarding fundamental values, such as respect for human life, its defense from conception to natural death, the family built upon marriage between a man and a woman, the freedom to educate one's children and the promotion of the common good in all its forms."

"These values," he said, "are not negotiable."

Pope Benedict XVI, *Sacramentum Caritas*, (Vatican City, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2007) Section 83

Once again the USCCB has affirmed in their document *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* that even as we must do all we can to address the many ways human life is threatened, "abortion remains our pre-eminent priority as it directly attacks our most vulnerable brothers and sisters, destroying more than a million lives each year in our country alone." ***Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States*, Introductory Letter, p.8. (Washington D.C.: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops 2024)**

As we faithful Catholics go to the polls on November 5, we are called upon to put aside personal feelings and personality preferences and to exercise our well-formed consciences as we make our choices in public witness to the teachings of our faith.

Cont.: <https://tinyurl.com/26v2pru2> <https://tinyurl.com/45va56k2>