

We can not differ on our moral obligation to build a more just and peaceful world through morally acceptable means, so that the weak and vulnerable are protected.

Catholics are called to make practical judgments regarding good and evil in the political arena. As blessed Pope John Paul II taught in *Pacem in Terris, no. 11*) "each of us has the right to life, to bodily integrity, and to the means which are suitable for proper development of life; these are primarily food, clothing, shelter, rest, medical care, and, finally, the necessary social services."

Pope Benedict XVI, in his recent reflection on the Eucharist as "*The sacrament of charity*", *challenged us to adopt what he calls*

"A Eucharistic form of life."

This means the redeeming love we encounter in the Eucharist should shape our thoughts, words and decisions including those that pertain to social order. The Holy Father called for "*Eucharistic Consistency*" on the part of every member of the church; both the voters and those who are running for elected office.

It requires the essential duty of every Catholic to speak and to pray the words...

Peace on Earth and Good will to all."

May we repeat these words in our home, in villages and cities wherever people of goodwill may gather.

**The Diocese of Orlando
Office of Advocacy & Justice
Presents...**

Forming Consciences for...



Wednesday, May 14, 2008 @ 7:00 PM
Refreshments @ 6:00 PM in
The Cultural Center

Annunciation Catholic Church
(In the church)

1020 Montgomery Rd
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714
www.churchofannunciation.org

Information & registration:
eclayton@orlandodiocese.org
407-246-4819

INTRODUCTIONS: Bishop Thomas Wenski – Bishop of the Diocese of Orlando and Chairperson of the USCCB Committee on International Justice & Peace and former Chairperson of the Migration Committee.

TOPIC: Catholic Social Teachings and the need for prudent judgment in an election year

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: John Carr - Executive Director of the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development at the United States Catholic Bishops' Conference.

TOPIC: A review of Faithful Citizenship, political responsibility and the role of an informed conscience

SPEAKER: Mike McCarron - Executive Director, the Florida Catholic Conference in Tallahassee, FL. The Conference represents the (Arch) Bishops before agencies of government and private organizations.

TOPIC: Grassroots Advocacy and Guidelines for Parish Involvement

CONCLUDING COMMENTS: Deborah Stafford Shearer – Diocesan Director – Office of Advocacy & Justice

**TOPIC: Implementing “Faithful Citizenship”
Resources in the Parish**

**Forming Consciences For Faithful Citizenship
A call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops
of the US - Issued by USCCB, November 14, 2007**

In the marketplace of ideas your vote is an important gift to be exercised. Catholics are still playing a game of catch-up with almost everyone in America - in terms of unwrapping the gift and using it. The Catholic voice is being drowned out! We are doing this ourselves! Do you care?

However, the church never intends to tell Catholics whom to vote for or against. The Catholic persona does not ever attempt to dictate your vote. God gave us all free will. The decisions about political life are complex and it requires the exercise of a well-formed conscious aided by prudence.

A Summary of the Catholic Churches' teaching on Faithful Citizenship?

We are called to practice Christ's commandment to “love one another” (Jn 13:34). We are called to promote the well-being of all, to share our blessings with those most in need, to defend marriage, and to protect the lives and dignity of all, especially the weak, the voiceless, and those without power.

Faithful Citizenship requires that you listen as your conscious is speaking! This is the voice of God resounding in the human heart revealing the truth to us and calling us to do what is good and right and moral – for the common good.