

Faithful Citizenship A Skeleton Outline for a Gathered Youth Event

6:30 – 6:45pm: Gathering Time

6:45 – 7:15pm: Game Time

7:45pm: Topic Time

- In large group
 - ? – What do you know about the current presidential race?
 - List the responses
 - ? – What are the political issues that are important to you?
 - ? – Are there others that are important to people your age?
- Form Small Groups
 - The presidential candidates from both parties are all about blitzing us with commercials that tell us what is important to them. In your small group, come up with an advertisement that would explain to them what is important to you. You can make a commercial (skit), a poster, etc....
- Allow 15 minutes for the groups to create their advertisement, then invite the groups to share them with one another.
- In large group
 - ? – Even though most of you aren't old enough to vote yet, what are some ways you can get involved in the political process?
 - List responses
 - Be prepared with information specific to your state
 - For example, in Iowa young people who are 17 at caucus time but who will be 18 by election day are eligible to participate in the caucus.
 - ? – What role should Religion play in politics?
 - List responses
 - ? – What role should Faith play in politics?
 - List responses
 - ? – How are the two different, especially when it comes to the political process?

- To help us prepare for the upcoming elections our Catholic bishops have prepared a document called “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship.” The full document (<http://www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship/FCStatement.pdf>) is 44 pages long, but I’ve made copies of a summary (<http://www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship/FCBullInsert.pdf>) for you. Here are some key points to think about:
 - Summary of key points:
 - Pg 1 – “We do not tell Catholics how to vote. The responsibility to make political choices rests with each person and his or her properly formed conscience.
 - Pg 2 – “...participation in the political life is a moral obligation.” NOT AN OPTION – AN OBLIGATION
 - Pg 3 – “The Church equips her members to address political questions by helping them develop well-formed consciences.”
 - What does it mean to have a “well-formed conscience?”
 - Pg 4 – “As Catholics we are not single-issue voters. A candidate’s position on a single issue is not sufficient to guarantee a voters’ support. Yet a candidate’s position on a single issue that involves an intrinsic evil, such as support for legal abortion or the promotion of racism, may legitimately lead a voter to disqualify a candidate from receiving support.”
 - What does “intrinsic evil” mean?
 - Pg 4 – “Both opposing evil *and* doing good are essential.”
 - The Church has given us seven key principles that should guide our decision making when it comes to politics (and many other issues):
 - Give short summaries of:
 - The right to life and the dignity of the human person (pg 6)
 - Call to family, community, and participation (pg 7)
 - Rights and responsibilities of all people (pg 7)

- Option for the poor and vulnerable (pg 7)
- Dignity of work and the rights of workers (pg 8)
- Solidarity (pg 8)
- Care for God's Creation (pg 8)
- Wrap Up
 - Any questions?
 - Other resources
 - Challenge to act!
- Closing Prayer

Other resources:

<http://www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship/>

<http://www.2decide.com/table>