

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 20, 2020



SAINTS CYRIL AND
METHODIUS PARISH

FARNOST SVÄTÝCH
CYRILA A METODA



A Personal Parish Established To Serve The Slovak Catholic Community In The Archdiocese Of Detroit



25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“Are you envious because I am generous?” Thus, the last
will be first, and the first will be last.” - Mt 20:15-16

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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MASS Intentions

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September 19, Saturday – Sobota

- 9:00AM **Mass Inside Church**
For Tim & Victoria Roddy & Family
❖ For Mariam Aziz ❖ †Cristina Cambara
- 5:30PM **Outdoor Mass**
For President Trump ❖ For Fr. Luigi & All Priests
❖ For Mary Ann Ceniza ❖ For Catie & Family
❖ For Brian Dabrowski & Dabrowski Foster Children
❖ For Diane Meyer ❖ †Wafa Kassab

September 20, 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Nedela

Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a (133)

- 7:30AM **Mass Inside Church**
For a Special Intention req. Vicki Babbie
❖ For a Special Intention req. Sam Gill
❖ For Constance Beste (B'Day) ❖ †Jim Olinzock
❖ †George Maroni ❖ †Edward Schoener
❖ †Ralph & Janet Reising ❖ †Mary Klebans
❖ †Richard Walczyk req. Daphne Johnson
❖ †John & Geraldine Chrustowski
- 9:30AM **Outdoor Mass**
For the Souls in Purgatory ❖ For Chris Jones
❖ For Brian & Lisa Koziol & Family
❖ For Andrew Melnyk
❖ For William & Theresa Melnyk
❖ For the Vitale & Monsu Families
❖ †Virginia Pierce req Cindy & Dennis Zitny
❖ †Vernon W. Davenport ❖ †Marge Santioni
- 11:30AM **(Slovak) Mass Inside Church**
In Thanksgiving Kola Peter Gjocaj
❖ For Mark Varchetti ❖ For Ernest & Maria Gaiera
❖ For Glen & Amy Varchetti and Family
❖ For George & Helen Emmendorfer
❖ †Julia Gulas ❖ †Ken Kern
- 6:00PM **(Tridentine) Mass Inside Church**
For the Intentions of All Parishioners
- 8:30PM **Outdoor Mass**
For Monir & Alia Korkis & Family ❖ For Kevin Aziz
❖ For the Meyou Sisters
❖ †Brian Czach req. Rita ❖ †Tom Garmo
❖ †Sam Kassab ❖ †Neran Garmo

September 21, Monday – Pondelok

- 9:00AM **Mass Inside Church**
For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
❖ For Bernadette Shamoon (B'Day) ❖ †Mary Klebans
- 12:00PM **Mass Inside Church**
For Julius Aziz ❖ †Sal Kassab ❖ †Katina Kassab

September 22, Tuesday – Utorok

- 6:00AM **Outdoor Mass**
For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
❖ For Sara Pablo ❖ †Christopher Rondo
- 12:00PM **Mass Inside Church**
For Tim & Victoria Roddy & Family ❖ For Nate Weil
❖ †Marion & Amelia Jankowski req. Son

September 23, Wednesday – Streda

- 9:00AM **(Latin) Mass Inside Church**
For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
❖ For Patrick, Michael & Joshua Fayad
❖ For Rosemary Shamoon

- 12:00PM **Mass Inside Church**
For Melissa & Family
❖ For Michael & Rita Antonelli (4th Wed. Ann.)
❖ †Greg & Mary Manning & Family

September 24, Thursday – Štvrtok

- 6:00AM **Outdoor Mass**
For Fictoria Hannakeachel Family
❖ †Fr. Valentine Gattari (Ann.) ❖ †Mary Klebans
- 12:00PM **Mass Inside Church**
For Ryan req. by Grandma & Papa
❖ †Robert Orłowsky ❖ †Matthew Margiewicz
- 7:00PM **Mass Inside Church**
For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
❖ For Gabriel Smith (1st B'Day) ❖ †Brenda Bianga

September 25, Friday – Piatok

- 6:00AM **Outdoor Mass**
For Theresa Trancik (B'Day) ❖ For Kola Peter Gojcaj
❖ For Cecelia Bustamante (B'Day) ❖ †Mary Klebans
- 12:00PM **Mass Inside Church**
For Antonina Albino (B'Day) req. Konowalski Family
For Mariam Aziz ❖ †Peggy Zwolinski (Ann.)
❖ †Jameela Kassab ❖ †Joesan Gabarda

September 26, Saturday – Sobota

- 9:00AM **Mass Inside Church**
For Kim Nguyen and Family
❖ †Cristina Cambare ❖ †Mary Klebans req. Family
- 5:30PM **Outdoor Mass**
❖ For President Trump ❖ For Mike Schefke (B'Day)
❖ For Barbara Garrisi req Ken and Maryann
❖ For Kevin Aziz ❖ For Gammo & Gill Families
❖ †Coletta Weisbarth ❖ †Terry Grierson

September 27, 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Nedela

Ez 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5; Mt 21:28-32 (136)

- 7:30AM **Mass Inside Church**
For the Intentions of the Members of the St. Monica Sodality ❖ For Mark Wilkins (B'Day)
❖ For Fictoria Hannakeachel & Family
❖ For David Fritz
❖ †Virginia Pierce req. Cindy & Dennis Zitny
❖ †Mary Klebans req. Family ❖ †Bessie Davenport
❖ †Richard Walczyk req Lucille Zreliak
❖ †Daniel Fluker req Cindy & Dennis Zitny
❖ †Milton and Eunice Libaire ❖ †Marge Santioni
- 9:30AM **Outdoor Mass**
For the Intentions of all Parishioners
- 11:30AM **(Slovak) Mass Inside Church**
In Thanksgiving req. Kola Gjocaj ❖ For Ibrahim Aziz
❖ For Nate and Theresa Robinson and Family
❖ For Carl and Stephanie Varchetti and Family
❖ For Dianne Skema ❖ For Amy Huyghe
❖ †Daniel and David Polus req. Mother
- 6:00PM **(Tridentine) Mass Inside Church**
❖ †Paul Truchan
- 8:30PM **Outdoor Mass**
For Marvin, Yousif, & Meriam Shaina
❖ For James Zabawski ❖ For Maria
❖ For Jason Czach (B'Day) req. Family
❖ †Roger Harness req. by Ann Rodgers ❖ †Sana Pattab
❖ †Ghassan Pattab ❖ †Steven Rodgers req. wife



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time • September 20, 2020

Jesus Christ, The High Priest

Fr. Libor Marek, Pastor • lmarek@saintcyrls.church

Fr. Juraj Nuota, Associate Pastor • jnuota@saintcyrls.church

Deacon Phil McCown • wadephil@yahoo.com

Deacon Gerald Smigell • vgsmigell@gmail.com

Parish Office • parishoffice@saintcyrls.church

Weekday Mass & Office Schedule

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE:

MONDAYS: 9AM (Indoor) & 12PM (Indoor)

TUESDAYS: 6AM (Outdoor) & 12PM (Indoor)

WEDNESDAYS: 9AM (Indoor) & 12PM (Indoor)

THURSDAYS: 6AM (Outdoor), 12PM (Indoor) & 7PM (Indoor)

FRIDAYS: 6AM (Outdoor) & 12PM (Indoor)

WEEKDAY OFFICE SCHEDULE:

MONDAYS: 10AM - 2PM

TUESDAYS: 11AM - 2PM

WEDNESDAYS: 10AM - 2PM

THURSDAYS: 11AM - 5PM

FRIDAYS: 11AM - 2PM

*CONFESSION SCHEDULE:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 10:30AM - 11:30AM & Tuesday & Thursday: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Registration Forms for Confession are Available on the Parish Website: www.saintcyrls.church

Confessions are outdoors. Please wear a face mask.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: EVERY THURSDAY: 1:00PM - 7:00PM (in the Church)



CSA 2020

Dear Parishioners: The unprecedented situation of 2020 has brought many challenges to our Parish. It has forced us to put out into deep waters and undergo harsh tests. Many external support systems have been lost, but hopefully our faith has come through more genuine and stronger than before.

Now is the time to stand up and continue living our faith within our families, parishes, and in society at large. There are many ways in which each of us can be involved in the mission of the Church, through active participation in the various ministries in our Parish. Moreover, many ministries, services, and programs are coordinated on the diocesan level. These benefit not only all Catholics, but they also allow all people to hear the good news and be touched by God's love.

As with every year, our shepherd, Archbishop Vigneron, is asking the faithful of the Archdiocese of Detroit to support the Catholic Services Appeal for 2020. The many programs and ministries (priestly formation, evangelization, Catholic schools, family, pro-life...) benefit thousands in Southeast Michigan. These are substantial components of the mission of our Church and they are everyone's responsibility.

The goal set for our Parish this year is \$156,616 (compared to \$192,200 in 2019). This goal reflects the overall trend of our offertory income over the past three years, plus an adjustment of -15% due to the pandemic situation and economic hardship.

From the financial perspective, every donation to the Parish is taxed at a 7% rate by the Archdiocese of Detroit, and only the remaining 93% can be used by the Parish. The CSA collection, however, offers us a unique opportunity to make our financial contributions count 100% entirely for use by the Parish. Moreover, once we reach the mandatory goal, any overage is credited to the Parish at the same 100% rate.

We have been blessed with many generous parishioners in the past and our Parish was able to reach the CSA goal last year. Given the current economic and financial situation, many people will have less flexibility to donate as in the past, and they therefore deserve more gratitude for their generosity. Please, prayerfully consider supporting the 2020 CSA and make your gift count for our Parish. If you are unable to contribute, please, continue praying for the mission of the Church, of which we are all a part. *Fr. Libor Marek*

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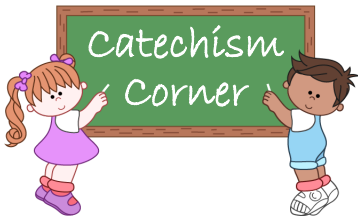
Počas roku 2020, keď sa zrútili mnohé vonkajšie opory, naša viera prešla testom a snád z neho vyšla pevnejšia a čistejšia. Teraz je čas vieru znova žiť v našich rodinách, farnostiach a vo verejnom živote. Naša farnosť ponúka mnohé možnosti zapojiť sa do poslania Cirkvi – nežiť pre seba, ale pre druhých a tak šíriť Božie kráľovstvo. Mnohé programy a aktivity nie je možné konať na farskej, ale na diecéznej úrovni. Profitujú z nich nielen katolíci, ale všetci ľudia môžu zakúsiť dotyk Božej lásky.

Tak ako každý rok, náš pastier, arcibiskup Vigneron žiada všetkých veriacich diecézy o podporu zbierky CSA (Catholic Services Appeal). Vďaka nej sa financujú mnohé programy (formácia a vzdelávanie kňazov, evanjelizácia, katolícke školy, podpora rodín a manželstiev, pro-life...), ktoré slúžia mnohým ľuďom v Michigane. Sú to podstatné prvky poslania Cirkvi a my všetci sme za ne zodpovední.

Tento rok máme dosiahnuť cieľ vo výške \$156,616 (v roku 2019 to bolo \$192,200). Tento cieľ reflektuje trend našich farských financií za posledné 3 roky a zároveň je znížený o -15% vzhľadom na pandémie a ekonomickú situáciu.

Z finančného hľadiska, každý príspevok pre farnosť je zdanený 7% pre Diecézu a iba zvyšných 93% môže byť použitých pre farnosť. CSA zbierka nám ponúka jedinečnú možnosť započítať 100% vášho príspevku v prospech farnosti. Okrem toho, keď dosiahneme náš povinný cieľ, všetko ostatné sa vráti do farnosti vo výške 100%.

Už v minulosti sme mali mnoho štedrých ľudí a vďaka nim sme v roku 2019 náš cieľ dosiahli. Vzhľadom na tohoročnú finančnú a ekonomickú situáciu budú mnohí ľudia mať menej možností prispieť. O to viac si zaslúžia vďačnosť. Ak vám to je možné, prosím, prispajte do tejto zbierky. Váš dar sa počíta v prospech našej farnosti. Ak nemôžete prispieť, prosím, modlite sa za Cirkev a všetkých jej členov, aby vždy ostala verná svojmu poslaniu. *Fr. Libor Marek*



### Catechism •

#### Wednesday, September 23

"In-person" Catechism classes began last Wednesday.

Grades Kindergarten through 3rd grade and Special Needs meet in

the church building from 6:15PM–7:15PM to allow parents time to pick up their children and proceed to the Activity Center to pick up their older children (grades 4th–8th) for their 7:30PM dismissal.

Parents – Please remember to follow the directions of the Knights of Columbus in the Parking Lot. They are giving of their time to see that all volunteers, students and their families are safe each and every Wednesday Night. These selfless gentlemen have done this for more years than I can count and come with the experience and know-how that we have come to rely on tremendously.

Unfortunately, there will be no Benediction on Wednesday Evenings but we hope that it will return in our next school year.

September's Calendar: Class on September 23 and 30

October's Calendar: Class on October 7, 14, 21 and 28

May God Bless You and Yours, Mr. & Mrs. Paul & Carroll Schuller  
(586) 726-6911, ext. 112 or [cschuller@saintcyrls.church](mailto:cschuller@saintcyrls.church)

#### Thursday Nights Holy Masses Resume

Everyone is warmly welcomed to the weekly Thursday evening 7:00PM Holy Mass. We pray the rosary each Thursday beginning at 6:00PM for our country, our beloved Catholic Church and for all priests. Please join us.

Questions, please call: Lorraine Drozdowski, (586) 323-1833

#### Life Teen High School Kick-Off • Monday, September 21

Life Teen High School Ministry will kick-off this Monday, September 21, from 6:45PM-8:45PM in the church parking lot.

Parents, please register new **AND** returning teens at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/lifeteenedge>

If you have questions, would like to be put on our mailing list or would like to volunteer, please contact:

Alexandria Lewis, (586) 641-7672 or [lifeteen@saintcyrls.church](mailto:lifeteen@saintcyrls.church)

#### Alpha Online Fall 2020 • Tuesday, September 22

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith. Run over 11 weeks, each session looks at a different question that people can have about faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is a safe, non-judgmental, friendly, and welcoming space to explore life's big questions together. Join us for an engaging talk and small group conversation. This version of Alpha is being offered online due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is being sponsored by Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit and will include the involvement of some seminarians as small group discussion animators. Registration is free. To find out more please visit [shms.edu/alpha](http://shms.edu/alpha).

#### EDGE Middle School Ministry • Thursday, September 24

EDGE Night will take place this Thursday, September 24, from 6:45PM-8:45PM in the church parking lot. Please be mindful that Confessions are taking place in the parking lot until 7:00PM, therefore, do not enter by the Slovak Cross.

Parents, please register new **AND** returning teens at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/lifeteenedge>

If you have questions, would like to be put on our mailing list or would like to volunteer, please contact:

Alexandria Lewis, (586) 641-7672 or [lifeteen@saintcyrls.church](mailto:lifeteen@saintcyrls.church)



### Get Ready to VOTE! Registration Drive THIS WEEKEND

**YOU can change our country's future!**

*"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."* These

profound words were said by Edmund Burke, who also stated, *"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do little."* It is our patriotic duty and privilege to vote. If you are 18 years or older, you must be registered in order to vote.

Registrations will be available after all Holy Masses this weekend.

You may also register on-line at [SOSMichiganVote](http://SOSMichiganVote)

#### Daily Public Rosary for our Country

**Together We Pray, United We Stand**

There are only 51 days until the Presidential Election. Our country needs prayers so please come as often as you can to support each other in this peaceful prayer event for our country. The daily public Rosary for our Country is prayed daily, outdoors, and will continue until the Presidential Election on Tuesday, November 3.

Prayers take place on weekdays at 5:30PM & weekends at 8:30AM. Bring a chair and do not park in front of the Slovak Cross in order to keep the area around the cross open for those participating. Please practice social distancing.

*"I pray that they may be [one] in Us,*

*that the world may believe that You sent Me."* –John 17:21

#### Prayer Vigil for Life • Saturday, September 26

St. Basil the Great Catholic Church, in conjunction with Helpers of God's Precious Infants of Michigan, will host a Prayer Vigil for Life on Saturday, September 26. The Most Reverent Allen H. Vigneron, Archbishop of Detroit, will celebrate Holy Mass at St. Basil the Great Catholic Church, 22860 Schroeder, Eastpointe (just north of East 9 Mile Road), beginning at 7:30AM.

At 8:30AM, Archbishop Vigneron and Pastor of St. Basil the Great, Fr. Eric Fedewa, will lead a prayerful, peaceful, loving Rosary pilgrimage/procession on-foot to two nearby abortion mills on East 8 Mile Road. The total walk is approximately six blocks.

At 10:15AM, pilgrims will return to St. Basil the Great to conclude the Prayer Vigil for Life with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Additional information, please contact:

Judy, (586) 222-6872 or Helpers, (313) 530-4539

#### St. Monica Sodality Mass • Sunday, September 27

These are difficult days for many people, but while everyone needs prayer, everyone is also called to pray. Please join us in praying for our loved ones struggling with or away from the Catholic Faith.

The St. Monica Sodality monthly Mass takes place next Sunday, September 27, at 7:30AM. Continue to place your prayer intentions in the St. Monica box in the vestibule. They will be placed in the petition album stationed in front of the altar during the St. Monica Mass.

May Our Lady of Sorrows strengthen and intercede for us!



# RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

**Walk-ins Welcome!**

**THIS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22  
1:00 - 6:45PM**

As you know, donating blood products is essential to community health and the need for blood products is constant. If you donated whole blood at our Blood Drive in July, you are eligible to donate at our upcoming Blood Drive this Tuesday, September 22. **All blood, platelet and plasma donations will be tested for COVID-19 antibodies.**

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

To donate: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>  
More details or questions: <http://www.redcross.org> or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767)  
Thank you for your generosity!

### St. Michael Feast Day "Blue" Mass • September 29

On Tuesday, September 29, 7:00PM, there will be a special Feast Day High "Blue" Mass in honor of St. Michael the Archangel offered for all policeman and law enforcement officials at St. Joseph Shrine, 1828 Jay Street, Detroit (located near Eastern Market). The celebrant will be Reverend Canon Michael Stein. The Rosary will precede at 6:00PM. St. Michael is not only the Patron of Police, but also Soldiers, Doctors, Grocers, Mariners, Paratroopers, & Sickness. All are invited!

For more information, please visit:

[www.prayerpilgrimages.com](http://www.prayerpilgrimages.com) and/or contact:

Michael Semaan, (248) 250-6005

### Eucharistic Adoration Update

What is more encouraging to instill a sense of normalcy back in our lives than having our Holy Hours back in front of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament? The time spent with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time spent on earth. Each moment spent with Jesus deepens our union with Him and makes our souls everlastingly more glorious and beautiful in Heaven and helps to bring about everlasting peace on earth.

Currently, Adoration takes place on Thursdays from 1:00PM - 7:00PM in the church. We are hopeful to add additional hours (from 8:00PM on Thursdays to 6:00AM on Fridays) but we need at least 2-3 Committed Adorers for each time slot before we can do so. Once we have the slots fulfilled for these hours, this can eventually open even more days/hours. This cannot happen unless we have full participation and commitment.

If you have been contemplating adding a Holy Hour to your schedule or if you were previously a committed adorer on a different day, would you prayerfully consider committing to an hour between 8:00PM on Thursdays and 6:00AM on Fridays so that we can begin overnight Adoration? Social distancing and all other safety guidelines MUST be followed.

To become a committed adorer or if you have questions:

Jenn Dopke, (586) 530-3674 or [jdopke13@gmail.com](mailto:jdopke13@gmail.com)

### Discover St. Joseph, Pillar of Families • October 9-11

Now is the time of St. Joseph. Over the centuries, popes and saints, rich and poor alike have fled to St. Joseph in times of distress. His role as our spiritual father, guide, and protector is just as important today. During the Totus Tuus Family Conference at Catholic Familyland® in Bloomington, Ohio, from October 9-11 discover the powerful protection and intercession of St. Joseph for your family.

Learn more at [AFC.org](http://AFC.org).

### Scott Hahn Interviewed on New Book on Website

Visit our website to hear Dr. Scott Hahn interviewed by Steven Piskrowski on Dr. Hahn's new book, "Hope to Die, the Christian Meaning of Death and the Resurrection of the Body."

Interview can be found under the Resource Tab under Media.

### Reporting Sexual Abuse

The Archdiocese of Detroit encourages individuals to report clergy sexual abuse of minors and others – no matter when the abuse occurred. Individuals may contact local law enforcement authorities and/or they may report to the Archdiocese of Detroit by calling the Victim Assistance Coordinator at (866) 343-8055 or by emailing [vac@aod.org](mailto:vac@aod.org).

In addition the Michigan Attorney General's Office can be contacted at its toll-free reporting hotline at (844) 324-3374 (Monday through Friday from 8:00AM-5:00PM) or by email at [aginvestigations@michigan.gov](mailto:aginvestigations@michigan.gov).

More information about the Archdiocese of Detroit's efforts to address abuse may be found at [protect.aod.org](http://protect.aod.org).

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Detroitská Arcidiecéza povzbudzuje jednotlivcov, ktorí by vedeli o prípadoch sexuálneho obťažovania mladistvých zo strany kleru, aby ich ohlásili bez ohľadu na to, kedy sa tieto prípady vyskytli. Jednotlivci môžu kontaktovať orgány činné v trestnom konaní, alebo upovedomiť Detroitškú Arcidiecézu prostredníctvom koordinátora pre pomoc obetiam na tel. číslo 866-343-8055, alebo emailom vac@aod.org

Úrad generálneho prokurátora v Michigane možno kontaktovať na bezplatnom telefónnom čísle 844-324-3374 (od pondelka do piatku, od 8:00 do 17:00), alebo emailom aginvestigations@michigan.gov. Viac informácií o snahe Detroitskej Arcidiecézy predchádzať zneužívaniu je k dispozícii na adrese protect.aod.org.

The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship



Part II of II: Making Moral Choices and Applying Our Principles

This brief document is Part II of a summary of the US bishops' reflection, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, which complements the teaching of bishops in dioceses and states.

Part I of the summary of the US bishops' reflection, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, considered the core principles that underlie Catholic engagement in the political realm. Part II is a consideration of the process by which these principles are applied to the act of voting and taking positions on policy issues. It begins with the general consideration of the nature of conscience and the role of prudence. The application of prudential judgment does not mean that all choices are equally valid or that the bishops' guidance and that of other church leaders is just another political opinion or policy preference among many others. Rather, Catholics are urged to listen carefully to the Church's teachers when they apply Catholic social teaching to specific proposals and situations.

How Does the Church Help the Catholic Faithful to Speak About Political and Social Questions?

A Well-Formed Conscience

The Church equips its members to address political questions by helping them develop well-formed consciences. "Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act. . . . [Every person] is obliged to follow faithfully what he [or she] knows to be just and right" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1778). We Catholics have a lifelong obligation to form our consciences in accord with human reason, enlightened by the teaching of Christ as it comes to us through the Church.

The Virtue of Prudence

The Church also encourages Catholics to develop the virtue of prudence, which enables us "to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1806). Prudence shapes and informs our ability to deliberate over available alternatives, to determine what is most fitting to a specific context, and to act. Prudence must be accompanied by courage, which calls us to act. As Catholics seek to advance the common good, we must carefully discern which public policies are morally sound. At times, Catholics may choose different ways to respond to social problems, but we cannot differ on our obligation to protect human life and dignity and help build, through moral means, a more just and peaceful world.

Doing Good and Avoiding Evil

There are some things we must never do, as individuals or as a society, because they are always incompatible with love of God and neighbor. These intrinsically evil acts must always be rejected and never supported. A preeminent example is the intentional taking of innocent human life, as in abortion. Similarly, human cloning, destructive research on human embryos, and other acts that directly violate the sanctity and dignity of human life including genocide, torture, and the targeting of noncombatants in acts of terror or war, can never be justified. Nor can violations of human dignity, such as acts of racism, treating workers as mere means to an end, deliberately subjecting workers to subhuman living conditions, treating the poor as disposable, or redefining marriage to deny its essential meaning, ever be justified.

Opposition to intrinsically evil acts also prompts us to recognize our positive duty to contribute to the common good and act in solidarity with those in need. Both opposing evil and doing good are essential. As St. John Paul II said, "The fact that only the negative commandments oblige always and under all circumstances does not mean that in the moral life prohibitions are more important than the obligation to do good indicated by the positive commandment."¹ The basic right to life implies and is linked to other human rights such as a right to the goods that every person needs to live and thrive—including food, shelter, health care, education, and meaningful work.

Avoiding Two Temptations

Two temptations in public life can distort the Church's defense of human life and dignity: The first is a moral equivalence that makes no ethical distinctions between different kinds of issues involving human life and dignity. The direct and intentional destruction of innocent human life from the moment of conception until natural death is always wrong and is not just one issue among many. It must always be opposed. The second is the misuse of these necessary moral distinctions as a way of dismissing or ignoring other serious threats to human life and dignity. Racism and other unjust discrimination, the use of the death penalty, resorting to unjust war, environmental degradation, the use of torture, war crimes, the failure to respond to those who are suffering from hunger or a lack of health care or housing, pornography, human trafficking, redefining civil marriage, compromising religious liberty,

or unjust immigration policies are all serious moral issues that challenge our consciences and require us to act.

Making Moral Choices

The bishops do not tell Catholics how to vote; the responsibility to make political choices rests with each person and his or her properly formed conscience, aided by prudence. This exercise of conscience begins with always opposing policies that violate human life or weaken its protection.

When morally flawed laws already exist, prudential judgment is needed to determine how to do what is possible to restore justice—even if partially or gradually—without ever abandoning a moral commitment to full protection for all human life from conception to natural death (see St. John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*, no. 73).

Prudential judgment is also needed to determine the best way to promote the common good in areas such as housing, health care, and immigration. When church leaders make judgments about how to apply Catholic teaching to specific policies, this may not carry the same binding authority as universal moral principles but cannot be dismissed as one political opinion among others. These moral applications should inform the consciences and guide the actions of Catholics.

As Catholics we are not single-issue voters. A candidate's position on a single issue is not sufficient to guarantee a voter's 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.¹

What Public Policies Should Concern Catholics Most?

As Catholics, we are led to raise questions about political life other than those that concentrate on individual, material well-being. We focus more broadly on what protects or threatens the dignity of every human life. Catholic teaching challenges voters and candidates, citizens and elected officials, to consider the moral and ethical dimensions of public policy issues. In light of ethical principles, we bishops offer the following policy goals that we hope will guide Catholics as they form their consciences and reflect on the moral dimensions of their public choices:

- Address the preeminent requirement to protect **human life**—by restricting and bringing to an end the destruction of unborn children through abortion and providing women in crisis pregnancies with the supports they need. End the following practices: the use of euthanasia and assisted suicide to deal with the burdens of illness and disability; the destruction of human embryos in the name of research; the use of the death penalty to combat crime; and the imprudent resort to war to address international disputes.
- Protect the fundamental understanding of **marriage** as the life-long and faithful union of one man and one woman

as the central institution of society; promote the complementarity of the sexes and reject false “gender” ideologies; provide better support for family life morally, socially, and economically, so that our nation helps parents raise their children with respect for life, sound moral values, and an ethic of stewardship and responsibility.

- Achieve comprehensive **immigration** reform that offers a path to citizenship, treats immigrant workers fairly, prevents the separation of families, maintains the integrity of our borders, respects the rule of law, and addresses the factors that compel people to leave their own countries.
- Help families and children overcome **poverty** and ensure access to and choice in **education**, as well as decent work at fair, living wages and adequate assistance for the vulnerable in our nation, while also helping to overcome widespread hunger and poverty around the world, especially in the policy areas of development assistance, debt relief, and international trade.
- Ensure full conscience protection and **religious freedom** for individuals and groups to meet social needs, and so enable families, community groups, economic structures, and government to work together to overcome poverty, pursue the common good, and care for creation.
- Provide **health care** while respecting human life, human dignity, and religious freedom in our health care system.
- Continue to oppose policies that reflect racism, hostility toward immigrants, religious bigotry, and other forms of **unjust discrimination**.
- Establish and comply with moral limits on the use of **military force**—examining for what purposes it may be used, under what authority, and at what human cost—with a special view to seeking a responsible and effective response for ending the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East and other parts of the world.
- Join with others **around the world** to pursue peace, protect human rights and religious liberty, and advance economic justice and care for creation.

Notes

1. *Veritatis Splendor*, no. 52.

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