

BACKGROUND

Following in the footsteps of Jesus, we look to a long tradition of faith, the Word of God and the fundamental principles and Catholic Social Teaching for inspiration and guidance in the election season.

Here are some important things to keep in mind as we approach Tuesday, November 4th and our participation in the 2008 Election from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop's statement, Faithful Citizenship: the Challenge of Forming Consciences:

Our nation faces political challenges that demand urgent moral choices. We bishops seek to help Catholics form their consciences in accordance with the truth, so that they can make sound moral choices in addressing these challenges. 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. The Church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith, a part of the mission given to us by Jesus Christ.

Faith helps us see more clearly the truth about human life and dignity.

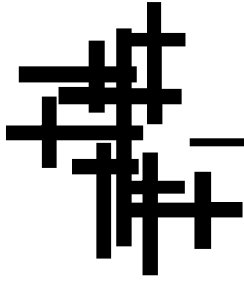
Our nation's tradition of pluralism is enhanced, not threatened, when religious groups and people of faith bring their convictions into public life.

The Catholic community brings to the political dialogue a consistent moral framework and broad experience serving those in need.

In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in the political life is a moral obligation.

-- To read the full document, go to the USCCB website: www.usccb.org

Our action for this month is... (see next page)



NOVEMBER 2008 ACTION:



It is in keeping with our dignity as persons
that we should take an active part in government.

-- Pacem in Terris, 1963