

**Support of the 2007 USCCB Statement  
'Faithful Citizenship'  
by the Catholic Roundtable for Peace & Justice  
Archdiocese of Louisville**

As a coalition group of our Catholic Community who have been involved in the social justice issues within our Archdiocese for the last thirty-five years since the founding of Archdiocesan Peace & Justice Commission, we would like to compliment and support Archbishop Kurtz and our American Catholic Bishops on their recent updated 2007 statement on the call to political responsibility, *Faithful Citizenship*, on the part of all our Catholic brothers and sisters.

In this political election year the moral issues to which we as prudent Catholics must focus our attention are multiple: war & terrorism, immigration reform, poverty, environment, cultural diversity, family life, marriage, human rights, and life issues from womb to tomb. Our Catholic Community brings to the political dialogue a *consistent moral framework and broad experience in serving those in need*. As our bishops say—*responsible citizenship is a virtue and participation in political life is a moral obligation*.

Our Catholic Social Teaching, developed over the last one hundred plus years, can help shape a *well-formed conscience* that is knowledgeable both about the issues and the values that come into making good moral decisions. We are required *to do good and avoid evil* which means to choose to do the best action that benefit the *common good* of all people and avoid those actions that are, by their very nature, evil—such as the direct killing of innocent human life. But as our bishops have stated—*as Catholics we are not single-issue voters*. We have to make courageous moral choices—sometimes choosing, if not a perfect choice, at least the closest choice to our highest moral principle.

As Catholic Christians we support no one political party affiliation, because neither party fully incorporates our Catholic Social Teaching. But we must examine a candidate's position on issues and consider *their integrity, philosophy, and performance* in office. We make our choices on moral principle, *not on party affiliation or mere self-interest*.

We urge our fellow Catholics to take the time to read either the full thirty-page document with all of its excellent resources or its' two-page summary. A superb website *faithfulcitizenship.org* is also an excellent educational resource for schools, families, and adult education.