

Dear Friends.

We read in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), that “The Church respects and encourages the political freedom and responsibility of the citizen.” CCC #2245. In addition, she teaches, “...the common good make it morally obligatory to pay taxes, to exercise the right to vote, and to defend one's country...” CCC #2240. We know that, “...here we have no lasting city, but we seek the one that is to come.” Hebrews 13:14.

We are mindful as St. Paul says in Philippians 3:20, “...our citizenship is in heaven.” Hebrews 12:1 & 2 guides us to, “...persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus.” The disciples of Jesus seek to fulfill their obligations as a citizen in this world but do so always with eternity in mind.

I have included some teachings from the Catechism that ought to assist us as we strive to live in the world while remembering that we are not of the world.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr. Tom Morgan

Things to keep in mind as we journey in this world:

Those subject to authority should regard those in authority as representatives of God, who has made them stewards of his gifts: "Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution. . . . Live as free men, yet without using your freedom as a pretext for evil; but live as servants of God." Their loyal collaboration includes the right, and at times the duty, to voice their just criticisms of that which seems harmful to the dignity of persons and to the good of the community. **CCC #2238**

Those who exercise authority should do so as a service. "Whoever would be great among you must be your servant." The exercise of authority is measured morally in terms of its divine origin, its reasonable nature and its specific object. No one can command or establish what is contrary to the dignity of persons and the natural law. **CCC #2235**

Political authorities are obliged to respect the fundamental rights of the human person. They will dispense justice humanely by respecting the rights of everyone, especially of families and the disadvantaged. **CCC #2237**

“Concern for the health of its citizens requires that society help in the attainment of living conditions that allow them to grow and reach maturity: food and clothing, housing, health care, basic education, employment, and social assistance.” **CCC #2288**

Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person - among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life. **CCC #2270**

Every human life, from the moment of conception until death, is sacred because the human person has been willed for its own sake in the image and likeness of the living and holy God. CCC #2319

“Some rules apply in every case: One may never do evil so that good may result from it; the Golden Rule: "Whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them." - charity always proceeds by way of respect for one's neighbor and his conscience: "Thus sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience . . . you sin against Christ." Therefore "it is right not to . . . do anything that makes your brother stumble." **CCC #1789**