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Office of the Bishop

October 24, 2024

My dear Sisters and Brothers:

As your Bishop and a successor of the Apostles, I write to you today about a very important issue—the upcoming national, state and local elections. After much prayer and serious reflection, I want to share with you a few important principles that I hope will provide clear guidance during the upcoming elections.

**But before doing so, given the importance of this election season, I am asking all of our parishes to offer the opportunity for exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during Election Day, Tuesday, November 5. I sincerely hope that you can take advantage of this rich spiritual practice that day.**

Permit me to make this abundantly clear: My purpose in writing to you is not to tell you for whom you should vote, but to address some serious matters that are to be considered in light of Catholic teaching and beliefs. The challenge for us as Catholics is that many of the issues of the day are not only in contrast to but also in conflict with truths that we hold sacred in our faith tradition. Given the serious responsibility and privilege we have as citizens to vote, how can we prepare to cast our ballots in the face of this reality?

Several weeks ago, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, was asked about our upcoming election. He acknowledged the dilemma we face. He concluded his remarks by indicating that each one of us should vote and prepare to vote following serious prayer.

As Catholics, we are called to be a Church that respects the dignity of every human life. That is, ALL aspects of life. This society in which we live, with its complexities, often challenges those values that we are called to hold as a Church.

It is true that there are multiple issues that come before us. Second to none is the protection of life from the first moment of conception to the point of natural death. But every one of the other issues, from our perspective, are all defined by the truth that God has created us in His divine image and likeness. All of them are important and should weigh heavily upon our hearts and minds when determining our choices for elected officials. Included among them are immigration, economic welfare, healthcare, education, care of the poor, the environment, support of marriage and family life. Because of that truth, we are obliged to treat each other in a manner that respects that truth. This is something we can never forget.

How can we be true to our beliefs and principles as members of the Catholic community and at the same time be faithful to our privilege as voters?

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Given the moral and weighty obligation that is ours, it is ever so wise for us to follow the advice of Pope Francis and pray before we cast our votes. That being the reason for my invitation to a special time of prayer on Election Day.

Because we take our faith seriously as faithful citizens, the reasons we vote for candidates matter. When casting our votes, we have a moral responsibility to follow our well-informed consciences, which are enlightened by Church teaching, Catholic values and deep prayer. Then we must cast our votes and exercise our responsibility as faithful citizens following the Gospel in love.

To assist you in preparation for your vote, I have included a reference point to the Voter's Guide from the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference as well as six articles from the USCCB Non-Partisan Parish Pre-Election Catholic Education Program (<https://diopitt.org/catholic-voter-information>).

Finally, thank you for reading, reflecting and praying over my letter.

Grateful for our continued efforts together in being *On Mission for The Church Alive!*, and for our belief that "Nothing is Impossible with God," I am

Your brother in Christ,

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Most Reverend David A. Zubik  
Bishop of Pittsburgh

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