



[www.CatholicVoiceNC.org](http://www.CatholicVoiceNC.org)

October 26, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As we approach general elections on November 4, a wide range of thoughts and opinions are filling our mass media regarding the election process. We write to reiterate important information and to clarify one important issue for you.

First, we wish to reiterate the importance of educating yourselves about the teaching of the Catholic Church and the candidates' positions to the best of your ability. As teachers of the faith, the Catholic bishops of the United States have articulated the Church's teaching on important issues affecting public policy in our country in *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* [www.faithfulcitizenship.org](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org). As the Catholic bishops of North Carolina, we have invited candidates running for several major elected offices to respond to a survey that incorporates the issues found in *Faithful Citizenship*. You may view those responses at our respective diocesan websites (Raleigh: [www.dioceseofraleigh.org/candidates](http://www.dioceseofraleigh.org/candidates); Charlotte: [www.charlottediocese.org](http://www.charlottediocese.org)).

Many of the faithful in our dioceses are expressing a sense of being overwhelmed with the many issues that are being discussed and debated and seek further clarity from us. This leads to the second point of this letter. The Catholic Church proclaims a consistent ethic of life that covers a wide range of issues: human life, the family, global solidarity, social justice, environmental stewardship, etc. While all these issues are important, the intentional destruction of innocent human life is an intrinsic evil that can never be supported, and the protection of human life from conception to natural death is preeminent among our moral values. In the hierarchy of truths, this truth is never morally equivalent to all the other issues embraced under a consistent ethic of life.

Finally, we ask you to vote. Our participation in the election process is a privilege and a responsibility, and our nation needs the voice of Catholics to be heard as we seek to promote a society that defends the human rights of everyone.

May God bless you and our nation.

Sincerely yours,

+ 

Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis  
Bishop of Charlotte



Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge  
Bishop of Raleigh