

"Voting with a Clear Conscience"

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- 1. VOTE!** First, make sure you actually vote: voting is a moral obligation!
- 2. KNOW THE CANDIDATES.** Be sure you know where the candidates stand on the issues.
- 3. REJECT THE DISQUALIFIED.** If a candidate came forward and said, "*I support terrorism,*" you wouldn't say, "*I disagree with you on terrorism, but what's your health care plan?*" Similarly, those who permit the destruction of innocent life by abortion disqualify themselves from consideration.
- 4. DISTINGUISH POLICY FROM PRINCIPLE.** Most disagreements between candidates and political platforms do not have to do with principle ("*Is there a 'right to crime?'*"), but rather with policy ("*How do we reduce crime?*"). But the dispute over whether there is a **right to life does deal with principle, and is therefore more fundamental.**
- 5. WEIGH OTHER ISSUES PROPERLY.** *Not all issues have equal weight.* War, for example, may be morally justified, but abortion and euthanasia never are.
- 6. KEEP YOUR LOYALTY FOCUSED ON GOD.** Your loyalty to God must be stronger than your loyalty to any political party.
- 7. REMEMBER, THE PARTY MATTERS.** Elections do not only put *individual candidates* into power; they put *political parties* into power. Consider what the parties stand for, and how the outcome of the election affects the balance of power. Voting with a clear conscience also means that you consider how the outcome of the election in which you vote affects the balance of power. The same questions you ask about the candidates' positions on issues have to be asked of the party's positions. What is the party's platform? If that party comes into power, what people will they assign to committees, and what kinds of legislation will they allow to come for a vote, or will they block from seeing the light of day? (In recent months, the importance of this balance of power was brought to the forefront with the Supreme Court nomination process.)
- 8. DISTINGUISH "CHOOSING EVIL" FROM "LIMITING EVIL".** If two opposing candidates both support abortion, then ask: *Which of the two candidates will do less harm to unborn children?* This is not "*choosing the lesser of two evils,*" but rather choosing to *limit an evil,* and that is a good.

Remember that THE RIGHT TO LIFE COMES FIRST! If a human being is not allowed to be born, or if that life is terminated before natural death, then *none of the rest matters.* Far from being a one-issue Church, we do believe that we are to take care of the poor, the sick, the elderly, the homeless, the economy, education, immigration and ALL social justice issues. However, we believe that the Right to Life comes first. *If a candidate does not value the right to life first and foremost, then they will be suspect in the respect for human life on all other issues.*