

St. Thomas's execution. St. Thomas More is an example of holding strong to one's convictions in the face of extreme government pressure. **Other examples:** St. Andrew Dung-Lac, St. Edith Stein, St. John Fisher, St. José Luis Sánchez del Río, and St. Paul Miki.

Preferential Option for the Poor

The Gospels share how Jesus saw dignity and value in every living person, especially those on the margins and those discarded or overlooked by the authorities. His example of charity and love for others inspire within the human heart a desire to serve the less fortunate. Catholics should consider how candidates will support policies that improve economic conditions and protect the vulnerable.

- Does the candidate promote policies that protect Michigan's most vulnerable citizens and foster the creation of jobs, with acceptable working conditions and just wages?
- Has the candidate discussed day-to-day realities with the poor and how he or she could assist, for example by supporting affordable housing and transportation policies for low- and moderate-income families and individuals?

St. Vincent de Paul is the patron saint of charities. He founded several hospitals and collected funds for war victims. His life inspired Blessed Frédéric Ozanam to create The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in 1833, which offers person-to-person services for those in need. Catholics are called to help one another through acts of charity and justice in the public realm. **Other examples:** St. Cajetan, St. Clare of Assisi, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, St. Óscar Romero, and Blessed Solanus Casey.



Education

Parents have the *fundamental right* to choose a school most suitable for their children.³ The state has a responsibility to allow public and nonpublic options for all. Where existing structures continually fail low-income families, new models and choices become necessary.

- Does the candidate support the expansion of school choice options such as tuition tax credits, opportunity scholarships, or similar programs?
- How does the candidate propose to improve the quality of public education, especially for low-income students?



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is the patron saint of Catholic education and the founder of the first Catholic schools in the country. Following the death of her husband when she was thirty, St. Elizabeth supported five children, converted to Catholicism, and became a founding member of the Sisters of Charity. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's example reminds Catholics to remain hopeful through difficulties. **Other examples:** St. Catherine of Siena, St. John Baptiste de la Salle, St. John Bosco, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, and St. Thomas Aquinas.

Children and Families

Strong communities are formed when stable and loving families are supported and encouraged. The Catholic Church teaches that marriage—the love of a man and a woman in a life-long commitment—is a vocation and blessing that ideally produces children for future generations. Public officials can support marriages and families through their positions and policies.

- Where does the candidate stand on policies that protect the stability of marriage and the institution of the family?
- Does the candidate believe in protecting marriage as an institution that brings together one man and one woman in faithful union?

Sts. Louis and Zélie Martin are the first spouses to be canonized as a couple in the modern Church. Throughout their marriage, the pair demonstrated a deep commitment to their faith and fostered a loving family life. They had nine children, including St. Therese of Lisieux. Louis and Zélie offer inspiration for

