

CIVILIZE IT



DIGNITY BEYOND THE DEBATE

Civilize It: Take the Pledge

While thinking about the saints and praying for their intercession, Catholics can further reflect upon ways to live out the values of their faith this election season. Rather than participating in dialogue that does not respect the human person, people of goodwill can instead commit to healthy conversation. By participating in the nonpartisan *Civilize It* campaign created by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and adopted by the U.S. bishops, Catholics can promote civility, love their neighbor, and build community. The effort does not direct people to be silent about issues that matter; rather, it reminds Catholics how to converse with others when discussing politics and the election. Take the pledge for civility, clarity, and compassion online at CivilizeItMichigan.com.⁹

I pledge:

Civility. To recognize the human dignity of those with whom I disagree, treat others with respect, and rise above attacks when directed at me.

Clarity. To root my political viewpoints in the Gospel and a well formed conscience, which involves prayer, conversation, study, and listening. I will stand up for my convictions and speak out when I witness language that disparages others' dignity, while also listening and seeking to understand others' experiences.

Compassion. To encounter others with a tone and posture which affirms that I honor the dignity of others and invites others to do the same. I will presume others' best intentions and listen to their stories with empathy. I will strive to understand before seeking to be understood. ●

1, 4, 6. Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, USCCB, 2019: bit.ly/2CY57yl. 2. Background about the saints came from Catholic News Agency, Catholic Online, and Franciscan Media. Further information can be found at micatholic.org/2020Election. 3. Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), Second Edition, no. 2229: bit.ly/2PGKxVW. 5. CCC, Second Edition, no. 1778: bit.ly/2PGKxVW. 7. CCC, Second Edition, no. 1806: bit.ly/2PGKxVW. 8. "What Does it Mean to Form My Conscience?", USCCB, 2019: bit.ly/2PEQqCT. 9. A Spanish version is available at CivilizaLaConversacion.com. **Photo credits:** St. Gianna Beretta Molla photo by José Luiz Bernardes Ribeiro / CC BY-SA 3.0 (bit.ly/2CNNjWB). Sts. Louis and Zélie Martin photo by Catholic Church England and Wales / CC BY-NC-SA 2.0 (bit.ly/31sK7cc). St. Kateri Tekakwitha photo by Dieterkaupp / CC BY-SA 4.0 (bit.ly/3aLekpY).

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