



FORMING
CONSCIENCES FOR **FAITHFUL**
CITIZENSHIP

- This is especially important when there are divisions in our community, for example, the division seen during an election year. At this time, we are especially called to imitate Jesus' model of encounter and compassion.
- We are called to encounter and accompany others, even when we disagree with them. This involves being willing to engage in dialogue. Just like any authentic human connection, the process of dialogue is complicated, often uncomfortable, and requires vulnerability and trust. We must rely on our faith in Christ who taught us that everyone is truly our neighbor, worthy of our love and respect. Think about a person with whom you strongly disagree about something. Do you recognize Christ's presence in him or her? What are the things that prevent you from seeing Christ's presence in those around you? How can you remove those barriers to be more like the disciples, open to recognizing Christ's presence in those who walk the road with you?
- Civility does not mean that we see all viewpoints as equal, nor does it mean that we agree for the sake of agreement. While respecting the dignity of all, we acknowledge that not all viewpoints are equally valid. [In addition, all who exercise their freedom of speech have an obligation to ensure that they come to conclusions based on data from credible and reputable sources, and that care is taken to avoid seeking the truth selectively, that is, only when it is convenient to us.] Civil dialogue is different from remaining silent in the face of disagreement. Listening to opposing views is a part of seeking clarity. We seek to listen to others' views in order to understand how our views on a topic are different and why; we ask questions, and seek to find common good.
- Promoting compassion, civility and dialogue are ways we can put our faith in Christ in action. We can do this in ordinary everyday ways, and we can set aside intentional time to practice and engage in civil dialogue.
- The USCCB has created a campaign for civil dialogue called [Civilize It](#). It's an opportunity for Catholics and people of good will to commit to honoring the human dignity of those to whom we find ourselves listening through civility, compassion, and clarity. We are called to assume the posture of the disciples on the road listening to Jesus, remembering that each of us is a beloved child of God with inherent human dignity. There are resources, reflections, and prayers available at [CivilizeIt.org](#) to help us model civil dialogue in our families, workplaces, schools, and communities.
- Jesus was 'made known to them in the breaking of the bread.' How can you help others experience transformation as those disciples on the road to Emmaus?