



CAN TALKING POINTS

The Church has a unique role in the political life of society. Political issues often have moral dimensions that require vigilance on the part of Catholics in acting responsibly. The Gospel of life has social implications requiring one's attentiveness to various political issues. One way that the Church in Michigan participates in the public square is through the Michigan Catholic Conference (MCC).

Located in Lansing, the MCC is guided by a board of directors that includes Michigan's seven arch/diocesan bishops, five lay persons, one religious sister and a diocesan priest. The MCC brings the public policy positions of the bishops in Michigan to the legislative and executive branches of state government.

The issues of interest to the Church are diverse. They are unified, however, by a consistent understanding of the dignity of the human person, and of our obligation to uphold the common good, to defend human life from conception through natural death, and to protect the most vulnerable among us. Standing up for religious liberty and conscience rights, giving all families access to quality educational choices, upholding marriage and the family and speaking up for civil rights and economic justice are key priorities for the MCC.

As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' biennial document *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* states: "*As Americans, we are also blessed with religious liberty which safeguards our right to bring our principles and moral convictions into the public arena.*" This serves the purpose of putting our Catholic faith into action for the betterment of society through participation in the public square.

In operation for nearly eight years, the Catholic Advocacy Network is a web-based, grassroots program that allows Michigan Catholics the opportunity to participate in the democratic process by emailing state and federal officials either in support or opposition to pending legislation.

Signing up requires a name, email and home address. When users receive an email Action Alert, asking them to send their elected officials a message about a particular bill, background information is provided related to that legislative issue, and sample messages are provided that can be sent to legislators as-is or can be tailored to the user's preference. To sign-up and to begin receiving Action Alerts, visit www.micatholic.org/can/.