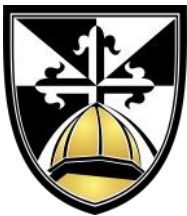


# 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 27, 2020

Ezekiel 18:25-28  
Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9  
Philippians 2:1-11  
Matthew 21:28-32

**“Remember your mercies, O Lord.”**



**St. Dominic's is a Catholic Parish Inspired by Dominican Spirituality Igniting the Faith for the Salvation of Souls**

## Mass Intentions

Sun	09/27	7:00 am	(T) People of the Parish
		9:00 am	(T) Fr. Gregory Liu, OP
		11:00 am	(T) Fr. Gregory Liu, OP
		1:00 pm	(H) Sheila Garvey
		5:00 pm	(H) Sheila Garvey
Mon	09/28	6:45 am	(D) Elena Baduria
		8:15 am	(B) Rafaela Jung Hee Choi
Tues	09/29	6:45 am	(T) Fr. Raphael Mary Salzillo, OP
		8:15 am	(D) Nannie Lustan
Wed	09/30	6:45 am	(B) Shannon Carter
		8:15 am	(B) Johnny Burgos
Thurs	10/01	6:45 am	(D) Rodolfo Arreola, Sr.
		8:15 am	(B) Arnold Tolentino
Fri	10/02	6:45 am	(D) Roman Raul Frantela
		8:15 am	(D) Bernadita de Leon Oronos
Sat	10/03	8:15 am	(A) Alan & Cheryl Wright
		5:00 pm	(T) Fr. Paul Hruby
Sun	10/04	7:00 am	(D) Rodolfo B. Arreola, Sr.
		9:00 am	(D) Wayne Avila
		11:00 am	(D) Jim Guinasso
		1:00 pm	(T) Essential Workers
		5:00 pm	(T) People of the Parish

Legend: (D) Deceased (H) Health  
(A) Anniversary (B) Birthday (T) Thanksgiving



**Mass & Flower Intentions available**  
Contact Alisa [aaquino@stdombenicia.org](mailto:aaquino@stdombenicia.org)



**Mass Intentions open for November on October 1st**



## Public Masses

### **Sunday**

7:00 am (inside)  
9:00 am (outside\*)  
11:00 am (outside\*)  
1:00 pm (English/Spanish-inside)

### **Monday-Saturday**

8:15 am (inside)

\*Weather permitting, otherwise inside

## Live-Stream Masses

[WatchStDom.com](http://WatchStDom.com)

### **Sunday**

7:00 am, 1:00 pm & 5:00 pm

### **Monday - Saturday**

8:15 am

### **Saturday**

5:00 pm



475 East I Street, Benicia, CA, 94510  
(707) 747-7220 [www.stdombenicia.org](http://www.stdombenicia.org)  
[@stdombenicia](https://www.instagram.com/stdombenicia) [#stdominicsbenicia](https://www.facebook.com/stdominicsbenicia)



## Pastor's Corner

### My new Muse

For past few weeks, I've been reading a book in which the author says he invokes the Muse daily before beginning in his creative work; it is the invocation that begins Homer's *Odyssey*. As an invocation for what I hope to accomplish in my life and work, it left me cold. A quick Google search about the Muses and their origin didn't help any. I then began thinking about this idea of invoking something outside of oneself as source, guide, and helper in life and work. Then it hit me: that's the Holy Spirit! For Christians, it is God himself who is precisely that and more! God is not only our origin (the Father, the First person of the Trinity), but our goal, the bridge between humanity and divinity (Jesus, the incarnate Second Person), and our helper (the Holy Spirit, the Third Person)!

I think you will recognize this invocation of our Muse. I adapted it slightly: to be personal, rather than communal. With that slight alternation, it became a daily invocation I can get behind! I hope you find it as inspiring as I did.

Fr. Carl, OP

Come, Holy Spirit, come!  
And from Your celestial home  
shed a ray of light divine!  
Come, Father of the poor!  
Come, source of all my store!  
Come, within my bosom shine.  
You, of comforters the best;  
You, my soul's most welcome guest;  
Sweet refreshment here below;  
in my labor, rest most sweet;  
Grateful coolness in the heat;  
Solace in the midst of woe.  
O blessed Light divine,  
shine within this heart of thine,  
And my inmost being fill!  
Where you are not, I have not,  
nothing good in deed or thought,  
Nothing free from taint of ill.  
Heal my wounds, my strength renew;  
On my dryness pour Your dew;  
Wash the stains of guilt away;  
Bend my stubborn heart and will;  
melt the frozen, warm the chill;  
Guide my steps that go astray.  
On the faithful, who adore  
and confess you, evermore  
In your sevenfold gift descend;  
Give me virtue's sure reward;  
give me your Salvation, Lord;  
Give me joys that never end. Amen. Alleluia.

Fr. Carl Schlichte, O.P.  
frcarl@stdombenicia.org 707-335-4668

## Dominican Saint of the Week

September 28 - **St. Dominic Ibanez de Erquicia & St. James Kyushei Tomonaga**, friars and priests, and **St. Lawrence Ruiz of Manila**, lay Dominican and husband, and Companions, martyrs in Japan.

These Dominican saints, James and Lawrence were all martyrs of Japan in 1633. They all died by the same horrific torment of the gallows and the pit, a slow form of capital punishment reserved for Christians by the Tokugawa Shogunate. St. Dominic Ibanez was born in Spain entered the order in 1605 and made his way to the Philippines in 1611. St. James was born in Japan 1582 to Noble Christian Parents. He became a catechist, and in 1614 he made his way to Manila and became a Franciscan tertiary. He then was admitted to the Dominican Order and was ordained a priest in 1626. St. Lawrence Ruiz was born in 1594 to devout Catholic parents. He was an altar boy at his local church and in 1636 became a clerk for his local church. Being falsely accused of killing a Spaniard, Lawrence sought asylum on board a ship with Dominican priest, St. Dominic and St. James, who were on their way to Japan. As previously stated, they were all given the Crown of Martyrdom together. St. Lawrence Ruiz is the protomartyr of the Philippines and the first Filipino saint. They were all beatified together by St. Pope John Paul II papal visit to the Philippines. They were canonized by the same pope in the Vatican City on October 18, 1987. St. Dominic Ibanez de Erquicia, St. James Kyushei Tomonaga, St. Lawrence Ruiz of Manila and Companions, martyrs in Japan, pray for us.

October 3 - **Blessed Domenico Spadafora**, friar and priest.

Domenico Spadafora was born in 1450 in Randazzo Italy to a noble family. He was a very good student earning a master's degree in theological studies. He joined the Order of Preachers and was ordained to the priesthood in 1479. Spadafora was a noted evangelist and attracted countless to the Dominican fold while also converting the hearts of others who led dissolute lives. He was known for his intense devotion to the passion of Jesus Christ. Domenico traveled quite a bit when he was alive and quite a lot after he died; he was exhumed in 1545 and deemed to be incorrupt and moved once again in 1653 after the convent he was interred in was suppressed. His remains were again relocated in 1677 and again in April of 2005 to the Chiesa della Santissima Trinita. He was beatified by Pope Benedict XV on January 14, 1921. Blessed Domenico Spadafora pray for us.

## ST. DOMINIC'S TEEN MINISTRIES

FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, & FUN

### YR I Confirmation

We are looking forward to the start of YR I Confirmation! We will begin the year with a **parent orientation** meeting that will take place from 6:00-7:00 pm in the amphitheater behind the Church. These meetings will take place on:

Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> Last Names **A-I**  
Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> Last Names **J-P**  
Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> Last Names **Q-Z**

### YR II Confirmation

The YR II Confirmation Team is looking forward to resuming classes in October! The **parent orientation** meeting will take place from 6:00-7:00 PM in the amphitheater behind the Church on the following dates:

Monday, October 12 for **Marlene's Sm Group**  
Tuesday, October 13 for **Aouie & Kaia's Sm Group**  
Wednesday, October 14 for **Dalia's Sm Group**  
Thursday, October 15 for **Barry's Sm Group**

### Youth Ministry

#### Ice Cream Social Postponed

Due to a forecast of 90+ degree temperatures this weekend, the drive-through ice cream social that was scheduled for September 27th has been postponed. Stay tuned for a new date! **Looking ahead:** There will be a youth rosary walk next month in downtown.



**RCIA**  
*A Journey in Faith*  
**Rite of Christian  
Initiation for  
Adults**  
RCIA@stdombenicia.org

RCIA is an ongoing ministry for those seeking the Sacraments in the Catholic church or have questions about the Catholic faith. Please contact Shannon Carter by email [RCIA@stdombenicia.org](mailto:RCIA@stdombenicia.org) for more information. New sessions starting now!

## Rosary for the Sick

Wednesday  
at 7:30 pm

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
WITH DEACON SHAWN



## Religious Education 2020-2021 A Distance Learning Year

Registration Open  
Introducing NEW ONLINE REGISTRATION  
& PAYMENT BY PAYPAL

### Important Dates

September 23rd:  
Classes Begin

### Grades 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>

- ◆ Blest Are We
- ◆ Faith in Action Take-Home Textbook
- ◆ Login Credentials to RCL Benziger Flourish Website
- ◆ Formed.org Digital Media Platform

### Grades 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>

- ◆ Blessed Series: First Holy Communion/ Reconciliation
- ◆ Take-Home Textbook from Dynamic Catholic
- ◆ Blessed Series: First Holy Communion/ Reconciliation Email Program for Parents from Dynamic Catholic
- ◆ Sacrament Animation Series from Formed.org

## Contact Information

### 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Grades Program

Deacon Errol Kissinger, DRE  
[ekissinger@stdombenicia.org](mailto:ekissinger@stdombenicia.org)

### First Sacraments

Debi Thurin  
[dthurin@stdombenicia.org](mailto:dthurin@stdombenicia.org)



# Rosary Sunday

DOMINICAN STUDENT APPEAL



## The Dominican Student Brothers Need Your Help

In the coming weeks you'll hear more about our annual **Rosary Sunday: Dominican Student Appeal**, which supports the education of the 36 young men currently in formation to become your future Dominican priests and religious brothers.

Even during these challenging times, God continues to raise up champions of the faith! If your means allow, your financial support is sincerely appreciated.

Your generosity will help give the world great Dominicans to preach and teach the Gospel!

Learn more at [www.opwest.org/rs](http://www.opwest.org/rs). We continue to pray that you and your loved ones have been safe and healthy during the pandemic.

## Parish App Feature-of-the-Week



Readings

- Daily Mass readings
- Official NAB(re) version
- Easily bookmark readings to reread at a later time

Learn more or download our parish app at [myparishapp.com](http://myparishapp.com)

\*Available on Apple and Android Phones.

## Join Us! SVdP 2020 Virtual Friends of the Poor Walk

St. Vincent de Paul is sponsoring our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Friends of the Poor® Walk/Run.

This year's Walk is virtual to ensure healthy distancing during the COVID pandemic. As a virtual walk, SVdP St. Dominic's Conference Walk offers participants the opportunity to walk wherever they wish, whether around the neighborhood, on a high school track or on a trail under the redwoods (masks and social distancing urged whenever required).

Funds raised by the 2020 SVdP Virtual Friends of the Poor Walk will go toward food and financial assistance to pay rent, utilities, clothing and transportation.

The official date of the virtual walk is the week of September 26th - October 3rd. However, people are encouraged to walk at their soonest opportunity. Register for the St. Dominic's Virtual FOP Walk® 2020 at:

<https://www.fopwalk.org/event/2520>



## St. Vincent de Paul Giving & Help

In the Gospel, Jesus says: "...where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." During August, SVdP answered 60 calls for assistance, helping 170 neighbors in need.

**If you or anyone you know who could use St. Vincent de Paul's help, please call 707-746-1773.**

**Leave a message.  
Thank you!**

## Grief Support

During COVID our regular group sessions can't meet but our Grief Ministry team is available for one on one grief support via telephone. COVID, fires, and grief, it's a lot, we're here to listen.

Please contact **Patti Erickson**  
at [consolation@stdombenicia.org](mailto:consolation@stdombenicia.org)  
or leave a phone message at 707.745.3502.

**Please pray for the recovery of  
the sick listed in our Book of  
Intentions and the following:**



Lisa Santini  
Daniel Foley  
Daniel C. Leary  
Sheila Garvey  
Al & Anne Caruso  
Donna W.  
Ardath Kroner  
Bill Telepak  
Peggy Burton

Maria Kielien  
Mary Barnhart  
Stan Gabel  
Joanne Flanagan  
Margaret McClune  
Alma Johnson  
Gladys Haddad  
Bessie Sharp  
Jane Gasper

**Please remember** the following recently deceased (and their families) in your prayers:  
Veronica Arkin, Antonio Valdellon, Bill Mahoney,  
Mark Parish, Jim Mahern, Kristin Tobias,  
Ruth Marks, Sara Smith, Lydia Leveriza,  
Benjamin Alvendia, Ora Weber, Maria Cardoso,  
Maria De Lourdes Cardoso, Merv Silva,  
JoAnn McMillan, Louise Thibeaux,  
Lorenzo Quizon, Flordeliza Escalada

*Sick or remembrances will be listed for a period of 3 months*



**Peaceful, prayerful, effective 40 Days for Life  
campaign to build on successes in Vallejo/Benicia/  
American Canyon CA**

Vallejo/Benicia/American Canyon CA – Beginning September 23<sup>rd</sup> thru November 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 we will be conducting our 40 Days For Life prayer vigil. Due to the COVID concerns and smoke problems from the CA fires we are proposing three ways you can participate in focused prayer for an end to abortion, for conversion of hearts, for mothers and fathers who feel they have no other choice, and for the unborn child who's very life is at risk. 1.) Focused visible prayer on the sidewalk of PP in Vallejo. Masks must be worn and people must be 6' apart, or you can park and pray in your car. 2.) We are offering a virtual-Zoom prayer hour each day at 3:00 pm during the vigil. Login info will be sent to those who wish to pray in this format. 3.) Please consider to commit to one hour in front of the Tabernacle at St. Dominic's, offering your prayers for this most important cause for life. There is no specific day when you must commit to praying, but please commit to prayer and fasting and let me know if you want to participate in the virtual-Zoom option so I can gather email addresses and send the login information. Please contact Tony Hensley at [tonyh@ctpub.com](mailto:tonyh@ctpub.com) to sign up for one hour per week.

40 Days for Life is a peaceful, highly focused, non-denominational initiative that focuses on 40 days of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil at abortion facilities, and grassroots educational outreach. The 40-day time frame is drawn from examples throughout Biblical history. The prayer vigil will take place in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood at 303 Sacramento St. Vallejo CA. All prayer vigil participants are requested to pray for peace, pledging to conduct themselves in a Christ-like manner at all times.

For information about 40 Days for Life in Vallejo/Benicia/American Canyon, visit:  
[www.40daysforlife.com/Vallejo/Benicia/Am.Cyn](http://www.40daysforlife.com/Vallejo/Benicia/Am.Cyn).

## Parish Office

**Temporarily Closed ~Please Email Us**

### Parish Staff

**Fr. Carl Schlichte, O.P.**

[frcarl@stdombenicia.org](mailto:frcarl@stdombenicia.org)

**Errol Kissinger**

[ekissinger@stdombenicia.org](mailto:ekissinger@stdombenicia.org)

**Shawn Carter**

[scarter@stdombenicia.org](mailto:scarter@stdombenicia.org)

**Fr. Gregory Liu, O.P.**

[gliu@stdombenicia.org](mailto:gliu@stdombenicia.org)

**Br. John Peter Anderson, O.P.**

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**Debi Thurin**

[dthurin@stdombenicia.org](mailto:dthurin@stdombenicia.org)

**Fr. David Farrugia, O.P.**

**Fr. Vincent Serpa, O.P.**

**Deacon John Flanagan**

**Pastor**

**Deacon & Dir Rel Ed**

**Deacon**

**In Residence**

**Student Brother**

**Business Manager**

**Communications**

**Parish Secretary**

**Music Director**

**Teen Ministry**

**Children's Sacraments**

**In Residence / Retired**

**In Residence / Retired**

**Retired**

### St. Dominic School

[www.sdbenicia.org](http://www.sdbenicia.org)

**(707) 745-1266**

**Katie Perata (K-8th grade)**

[kperata@sdbenicia.org](mailto:kperata@sdbenicia.org)

**Tanya Sanchez (Pre-K/TK)**

[tsanchez@sdbenicia.org](mailto:tsanchez@sdbenicia.org)

# Sunday Worship Aid

## **Ezekiel 18:25-28**

### **A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel**

Thus says the LORD: You say, "The LORD'S way is not fair!" Hear now, house of Israel: Is it my way that is unfair, or rather, are not your ways unfair? When someone virtuous turns away from virtue to commit iniquity, and dies, it is because of the iniquity he committed that he must die. But if he turns from the wickedness he has committed, he does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life; since he has turned away from all the sins that he has committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalms 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9**

### **Remember your mercies, O Lord.**

Your ways, O Lord, make known to me, teach me your paths. Guide me, teach me, for you are my Savior.

Remember your compassion, Lord, and your kindness of old. Remember this, and not my sins, in your goodness, O Lord.

Good and just is the Lord, the sinners know the way. God guides the meek to justice, and teaches the humble.

## **Philippians 2:1-11**

### **A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians**

Brothers and sisters: If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing. Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others. Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus, Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Matthew 21:28-32**

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: "What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, 'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.' He said in reply, 'I will not,' but afterwards changed his mind and went. The man came to the other son and gave the same order. He said in reply, 'Yes, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did his father's will?" They answered, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

### **Profession of Faith**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified

under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **Prayer for the Sick during the Pandemic**

O God, our refuge in trials, our strength in sickness, our comfort in sorrow, spare your people, we pray, and hear our prayers for all who are sick: Grant them, we implore you, your merciful help, so that, with their health restored, they may give you thanks in the midst of the Church.

Your Only-Begotten Son took on our human nature and bore our infirmities; protect and strengthen also we pray, nurses, doctors, first responders, and all others on the front line of this pandemic, who put themselves in harm's way to serve the needs of others.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Our Lady of Guadalupe	Pray for us!
St. Joseph	Pray for us!
St. Patrick	Pray for us!
Holy Father St. Dominic	Pray for us!



## **Ezequiel 18:25-28**

### **Lectura del libro del profeta Ezequiel**

Esto dice el Señor: "Si ustedes dicen: 'No es justo el proceder del Señor', escucha, casa de Israel: ¿Conque es injusto mi proceder? ¿No es más bien el proceder de ustedes el injusto? Cuando el justo se aparta de su justicia, comete la maldad y muere; muere por la maldad que cometió. Cuando el pecador se arrepiente del mal que hizo y practica la rectitud y la justicia, él mismo salva su vida. Si recapacita y se aparta de los delitos cometidos, ciertamente vivirá y no morirá". Palabra de Dios.

**Te alabamos, Señor.**

## **Salmo 24:4-5, 6-7, 8-9**

### **Recuerda, Señor, que tu misericordia es eterna.**

Señor, enséñame tus caminos, instrúyeme en tus sendas, has que camine con lealtad; enséñame, porque tu eres mi Dios y Salvador, y todo el día te estoy esperando.

Recuerda, Señor, que tu ternura y tu misericordia son eternas; no te acuerdes de los pecados ni de las maldades de mi juventud; acuérdate de mi con misericordia, por tu bondad, Señor.

El Señor es bueno y es recto, y enseña el camino a los pecadores; hace caminar a los humildes con rectitud, enseña su camino a los humildes.

## **Filipenses 2:1-11**

### **Lectura de la carta del apóstol san Pablo a los filipenses**

Hermanos y hermanas: si alguna fuerza tiene una advertencia en nombre de Cristo, si de algo sirve una exhortación nacida del amor, si nos une el mismo Espíritu y si ustedes me profesan un afecto entrañable, llénenme de alegría teniendo todos una misma manera de pensar, un mismo amor, unas mismas aspiraciones y una sola alma. Nada hagan por espíritu de rivalidad ni presunción; antes bien, por humildad, cada uno considere a los demás como superiores a sí mismo y no busque su propio interés, sino el del prójimo. Tengan los mismos sentimientos que tuvo Cristo Jesús. Cristo, siendo Dios, no

consideró que debía aferrarse a las prerrogativas de su condición divina, sino que, por el contrario, se anonadó a sí mismo, tomando la condición de siervo, y se hizo semejante a los hombres. Así, hecho uno de ellos, se humilló a sí mismo y por obediencia aceptó incluso la muerte y una muerte de cruz. Por eso Dios lo exaltó sobre todas las cosas y le otorgó el nombre que está sobre todo nombre, para que al nombre de Jesús todos doblen la rodilla en el cielo, en la tierra y en los abismos, y todos reconozcan públicamente que Jesucristo es el Señor, para gloria de Dios Padre.

Palabra de Dios.

**Te alabamos, Señor.**

## **Mateo 21:28-32**

### **+ Lectura del santo Evangelio según san Mateo**

En aquel tiempo, Jesús dijo a los sumos sacerdotes y a los ancianos del pueblo: "¿Qué opinan de esto? Un hombre que tenía dos hijos fue a ver al primero y le ordenó: 'Hijo, ve a trabajar hoy en la viña'. El le contestó: 'Ya voy, señor', pero no fue. El padre se dirigió al segundo y le dijo lo mismo. Este le respondió: 'No quiero ir', pero se arrepintió y fue. ¿Cuál de los dos hizo la voluntad del padre?" Ellos le respondieron: "El segundo". Entonces Jesús les dijo: "Yo les aseguro que los publicanos y las prostitutas se les han adelantado en el camino del Reino de Dios. Porque vino a ustedes Juan, predicó el camino de la justicia y no le creyeron; en cambio, los publicanos y las prostitutas, sí le creyeron; ustedes, ni siquiera después de haber visto, se han arrepentido ni han creído en él".

Palabra del Señor.

**Gloria a ti, Señor Jesús.**

### **Profesión de Fe**

Creo en un solo Dios, Padre todopoderoso, Creador del cielo y de la tierra, de todo lo visible y lo invisible.

Creo en un solo Señor, Jesucristo, Hijo único de Dios, nacido del Padre antes de todos los siglos: Dios de Dios, Luz de Luz, Dios verdadero de Dios verdadero, engendrado, no creado, de la misma naturaleza del Padre, por quien todo fue hecho; que por nosotros, los hombres y por

nuestra salvación bajó del cielo, y por obra del Espíritu Santo se encarnó de María, la Virgen, y se hizo hombre; y por nuestra causa fue crucificado en tiempos de Poncio Pilato, padeció y fue sepultado, y resucitó al tercer día, según las Escrituras, y subió al cielo, y está sentado a la derecha del Padre; y de nuevo vendrá con gloria para juzgar a vivos y muertos, y su reino no tendrá fin.

Creo en el Espíritu Santo, Señor y dador de vida, que procede del Padre y del Hijo, que con el Padre y el Hijo recibe una misma adoración y gloria, y que habló por los profetas.

Creo en la Iglesia, que es una, santa, católica y apostólica. Confieso que hay un solo bautismo para el perdón de los pecados. Espero la resurrección de los muertos y la vida del mundo futuro.

**Amén.**

### **Oración para los Enfermos durante la Pandemia**

O Dios, refugio nuestro en dificultades, nuestra fortaleza en la enfermedad, nuestro consuelo en la congoja, protege a tu pueblo, te lo pedimos, y escucha nuestras oraciones por todos los que están enfermos: Concédeles, te imploramos, tu misericordiosa ayuda, para que, con su salud restaurada, ellos puedan darte gracias en tu Iglesia.

Tu Hijo Unigénito tomó nuestra naturaleza humana y cargó con nuestras debilidades; protege y fortalece, también te lo rogamus, a enfermeros, doctores, a aquellos respondiendo en primeros auxilios, y a los que están en la primera línea de esta pandemia, quienes se ponen en peligro al servir a otros en sus necesidades,.

Por nuestro Señor Jesucristo, tu Hijo, quien vive y reina contigo en la unidad del Espíritu Santo, un Dios, por los siglos de los siglos.

Santa Virgen de Guadalupe

¡Ruega por nosotros!

San José

¡Ruega por nosotros!

San Patricio

¡Ruega por nosotros!

Santo Padre Santo Domingo

¡Ruega por nosotros!

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# The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship



## Part I of II: Our Call as Catholic Citizens

This brief document is Part I of a summary of the US bishops' reflection, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, which complements the teaching of bishops in dioceses and states.

*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* is the teaching document of the Catholic Bishops of the United States on the political responsibility of Catholics. It provides guidance for all who seek to exercise their rights and duties as citizens. As Catholics, we bring the richness of our faith to the public square. We draw from both faith and reason as we seek to affirm the dignity of the human person and the common good of all.

Everyone living in this country is called to participate in public life and contribute to the common good.<sup>1</sup> In *Rejoice and Be Glad* [*Gaudete et exsultate*], Pope Francis writes:

Your identification with Christ and his will involves a commitment to build with him that kingdom of love, justice and universal peace. . . . You cannot grow in holiness without committing yourself, body and soul, to giving your best to this endeavor.<sup>2</sup>

As Catholics, we are part of a community with profound teachings that help us consider challenges in public life, contribute to greater justice and peace for all people, and evaluate policy positions, party platforms, and candidates' promises and actions in light of the Gospel in order to help build a better world.

## Why Does the Church Teach About Issues Affecting Public Policy?

The Church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith, a part of the mission given to us by Jesus Christ. As people of both faith and reason, Catholics are called to bring truth to political life and to practice Christ's commandment to "love one another" (Jn 13:34).

The US Constitution protects the right of individual believers and religious bodies to proclaim and live out their faith without government interference, favoritism, or discrimination. Civil law should recognize and protect the Church's right and responsibility to participate in society without abandoning its moral convictions. Our nation's tradition of pluralism is enhanced, not threatened, when religious groups and people of faith bring their convictions into public life. The Catholic community brings to political dialogue a consistent moral framework and broad experience serving those in need.

## Who In the Church Should Participate in Political Life?

In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. As Catholics, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to any political party or interest group. In today's environment, Catholics may feel politically disenfranchised, sensing that no party and few candidates fully share our comprehensive commitment to human life and dignity. This should not discourage us. On the contrary, it makes our obligation to act all the more urgent. Catholic lay women and men need to act on the Church's moral principles and

become more involved: running for office, working within political parties, and communicating concerns to elected officials. Even those who cannot vote should raise their voices on matters that affect their lives and the common good. Faithful citizenship is an ongoing responsibility, not just an election year duty.

## How Can Catholic Social Teaching Help Guide Our Participation?

In the words of Pope Francis, "progress in building a people in peace, justice and fraternity depends on four principles related to constant tensions present in every social reality. These derive from the pillars of the Church's social doctrine, which serve as 'primary and fundamental parameters of reference for interpreting and evaluating social phenomena.'"<sup>3</sup> The four principles include the dignity of the human person, the common good, subsidiarity, and solidarity. Taken together, these principles provide a moral framework for Catholic engagement in advancing what we have called a "consistent ethic of life" (*Living the Gospel of Life*, no. 22).

Rightly understood, this ethic does not treat all issues as morally equivalent; nor does it reduce Catholic teaching to one or two issues. It anchors the Catholic commitment to defend human life and other human rights, from conception until natural death, in the fundamental obligation to respect the dignity of every human being as a child of God.

Catholic voters should use Catholic teaching to examine candidates' positions on issues and should consider candidates' integrity, philosophy, and performance. It is important for all citizens "to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest" (USCCB, *Living the Gospel of Life*, no. 33). The following summary of the four principles highlights several themes of Catholic social teaching for special consideration: these include human rights and responsibilities, respect for work and the rights of workers, care for God's creation, and the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.<sup>4</sup>

## The Dignity of the Human Person

Human life is sacred because every person is created in the image and likeness of God. There is a rich and multifaceted Catholic teaching on human dignity summarized in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*. Every human being "must always be understood in his irrepeatable and inviolable uniqueness . . . This entails above all the requirement not only of simple respect on the part of others, especially political and social institutions and their leaders with regard to every man and woman on the earth, but even more, this means that the primary commitment of each person towards others, and particularly of these same institutions, must be for the promotion and integral development of the person" (no. 131). The *Compendium* continues, "It is necessary to 'consider every neighbor without exception as another self, taking into account first of all his life and the means necessary for living it with dignity' (*Gaudium et Spes*, no. 27).



Every political, economic, social, scientific and cultural program must be inspired by the awareness of the primacy of each human being over society.”<sup>5</sup>

## Subsidiarity

It is impossible to promote the dignity of the person without showing concern for the family, groups, associations, and local realities—in short, for those economic, social, cultural, recreational, professional, and political communities to which people spontaneously give life and which make it possible for them to achieve effective social growth.<sup>6</sup> The family, based on marriage between a man and a woman, is the fundamental unit of society. This sanctuary for the creation and nurturing of children must not be redefined, undermined, or neglected. Supporting families should be a priority for economic and social policies. How our society is organized—in economics and politics, in law and public policy—affects the well-being of individuals and of society. Every person and association has a right and a duty to participate in shaping society to promote the well-being of individuals and the common good.

The principle of subsidiarity reminds us that larger institutions in society should not overwhelm or interfere with smaller or local institutions; yet larger institutions have essential responsibilities when the more local institutions cannot adequately protect human dignity, meet human needs, and advance the common good.<sup>7</sup>

## The Common Good

The common good is comprised of “the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfilment more fully and more easily.”<sup>8</sup>

Human dignity is respected and the common good is fostered only if **human rights are protected and basic responsibilities are met**. Every human being has a right to life, a right to religious freedom, and a right to have access to those things required for human decency—food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to ourselves, to our families, and to the larger society.

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. An economic system must serve the dignity of the human person and the common good by **respecting the dignity of work and protecting the rights of workers**. Economic justice calls for decent work at fair, living wages, a broad and fair legalization program with a path to citizenship for immigrant workers, and the opportunity for all people to work together for the common good through their work, ownership, enterprise, investment, participation in unions, and other forms of economic activity. Workers also have responsibilities—to provide a fair day’s work for a fair day’s pay, to treat employers and coworkers with respect, and to carry out their work in ways that contribute to the common good. Workers, employers, and unions should not only advance their own interests but also work together to advance economic justice and the well-being of all.

We have a duty to **care for God’s creation**, which Pope Francis refers to in *Laudato Si’* as “our common home.”<sup>9</sup> We all are called to be careful stewards of God’s creation and to ensure a safe and hospitable environment for vulnerable human beings now and in the future. Pope Francis, consistent with St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI (World Day of Peace Message, 1990 and 2010), has lifted up pollution, climate change, lack of access to clean water, and the loss of biodiversity as particular challenges. Pope Francis speaks of an “ecological debt” (no. 51) owed by wealthier nations to developing nations. And he calls all of us to an “ecological conversion” (no. 219), by which “the effects of [our] encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in [our] relationship with the world around [us].”<sup>10</sup> Indeed, this concern with “natural ecology” is an indispensable part of the broader “human ecology,” which encompasses not only material but moral and social dimensions as well.

## Solidarity

Solidarity is “a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to . . . the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all.” It is found in “a commitment to the good of one’s neighbor with the readiness, in the Gospel sense, to ‘lose oneself’ for the sake of the other instead of exploiting him, and to ‘serve him’ instead of oppressing him for one’s own advantage.”<sup>11</sup>

We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Our Catholic commitment to solidarity requires that we pursue justice, eliminate racism, end human trafficking, protect human rights, seek peace, and avoid the use of force except as a necessary last resort.

In a special way, our solidarity must find expression in the **preferential option for the poor and vulnerable**. A moral test for society is how we treat the weakest among us—the unborn, those dealing with disabilities or terminal illness, the poor, and the marginalized.

## Conclusion

In light of Catholic teaching, the bishops vigorously repeat their call for a renewed politics that focuses on moral principles, the promotion of human life and dignity, and the pursuit of the common good. Political participation in this spirit reflects not only the social teaching of our Church but the best traditions of our nation.

## Notes

- 1 *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nos. 1913-15.
- 2 *Gaudete et Exsultate*, no. 25.
- 3 *Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 221.
- 4 These principles are drawn from a rich tradition more fully described in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* from the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005), no. 160. For more information on these principles, see *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, 2016, nos. 40ff.
- 5 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 132. This summary represents only a few highlights from the fuller treatment of the human person in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*. For the fuller treatment, see especially nos. 124-159 where many other important aspects of human dignity are treated.
- 6 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 185.
- 7 *Centesimus Annus*, no. 48; *Dignitatis Humanae*, nos. 4-6.
- 8 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 164.
- 9 *Laudato Si’*, no. 77.
- 10 *Laudato Si’*, no. 217.
- 11 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 193. (See Mt 10:40-42, 20:25; Mk 10:42-45; Lk 22:25-27)

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