

Dear Friends in Christ,

As both political parties have now held their national conventions, and we are now about nine weeks away from the November 3<sup>rd</sup> election date, many voters have already made a firm decision about which candidate they will support, while others may still be in the balance.

If you are still undecided, it may help for you to check out some of the resources and guidelines from the United States Catholic Bishops at this website: <https://www.usccb.org/offices/justice-peace-human-development/forming-consciences-faithful-citizenship>.

Some of the more specific titles of topics include:

- Civil Dialogue Bulletin Insert
- Conscience Formation Bulletin Insert
- How to Contact Your Elected Officials Bulletin Insert
- Novena for Faithful Citizenship
- Do's and Don'ts Guidelines During Election Season

Integrating politics with faith can offer seemingly clear-cut direction on some issues yet challenge us to more complex moral reasoning on others. Either way, we should all be responsible citizens, engaging in the political process and debate, and exercising our right to vote. The USCCB website page "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" offers this quote from Pope Francis: "We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern."

His Peace, all!

Gerry