
Saint Xavier High School Faithful Citizenship Presentation

September 30, 2020



Overview of the Presentation

St. X Political Climate

Confirmation Bias & Critical Thinking

Arguing to Win or Seeking Truth

How to Register to Vote?

Why Voting Matters!

When is the Election? When are the Presidential Debates?

Catholic Church and Faithful Citizenship

Presentation will be sent to your theology teacher so he/she can post on Schoology.

Disclaimer

*Nothing in this presentation is intended to endorse any political party or candidate at the local or national level.

*It is designed to challenge you to think critically about government and politics through the lens of the Catholic Church.

Presenter



Mr. Adam P. Zoeller

Department: Theology

Courses: Revelation of God 8113

Christology 8021

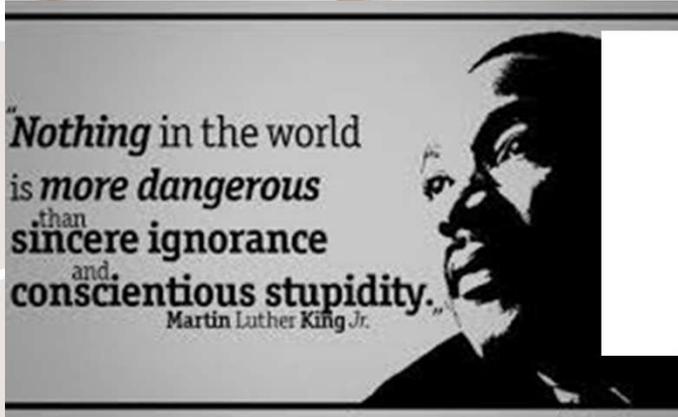
World Religions 8048



St. X Political Climate



Contentious



Do these clubs ever meet or talk to each other?

The Young Democrats Club engages students in the political issues of the day and helps them get involved with the political process. The club hosts guest speakers and works with the Young Republicans to debate and also find common ground on how the two parties can work together for the good of the entire community. Students have opportunities to volunteer on campaigns during political seasons.

Meeting Frequency: Once a month

Moderator: [Mr. Bill Bornschein](#)

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Why don't the young democrats and republicans lead the school in the Pledge of Allegiance?

Why do we only recite the Pledge of Allegiance once a week at Saint X?

Confirmation Bias & Critical Thinking

- Psychology Today states, “confirmation bias suggests that we don’t perceive circumstances objectively.” Rather, “once we formed a view, we embrace the information that confirms that view while ignoring, or rejecting, information that casts doubt on it.”

Seeking Truth or Trying to Win an Argument

“Seek with great patience to understand your opponent’s position,” he advised, adding that it can be “very tempting just to fire back 'why you’re wrong.’”

Instead of going after what’s wrong, he said, one should seek also highlight what your opponent has right. This is an “extraordinarily helpful” way to get past impasses

- Bishop Robert Barron

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/in-talk-at-facebook-bishop-barron-tackles-how-to-debate-religion-14570>

How do I
register to vote?

[Home Page -
Kentucky State
Board of
Elections](#)

Deadline is October 5, 2020 by 4:00pm

Election is November 3, 2020



2020 Presidential Debates

Three **debates** between the **presidential** candidates are scheduled to take place on September 29, October 15 and October 22, **2020**

<https://joebiden.com/#>

<https://www.donaldjtrump.com/>

A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility

Forming
Consciences



“You are called to defend and preserve the dignity of your fellow citizens in the tireless and demanding pursuit of the common good, for this is the chief aim of all politics.” Pope Francis addressing Congress 2015

Faithful Citizenship

- **U.S. Bishops' Statement every four years since 1976**
- **Participation in political process- a moral obligation and privilege**

Role of the Church

- Educate on social teachings, highlighting moral dimensions.
- “The Bishops do not tell Catholics how to vote; the responsibility to make political choices rests with each person and his or her properly formed conscience.”

What Public Policies Should Concern Catholics Most?

- Protecting human life
- Protecting the fundamental understanding of marriage
- Achieve immigration reform that offers a path to citizenship
- Help families and children overcome poverty
- Ensure access to and choice in education
- Provide health care while respecting human life and human dignity
- Oppose policies that reflect racism, hostility toward immigrants, religious bigotry, and other forms of unjust discrimination

Principles/Distinctions

- **Law/politics cannot be separated from morality....**
- **“A well-formed Christian conscience does not permit one to vote for a political program or an individual law which contradicts the fundamental contents of faith and morals.”**

Catholic Social Teaching

- *Life and dignity of the human person.*

Every human person is created in the image and likeness of God. Therefore, each person's life and dignity must be respected, whether that person is an innocent unborn child in a mother's womb, whether that person worked in the World Trade Center or a market in Baghdad, or even whether that person is a convicted criminal on death row.

Catholic Social Teaching

- *Rewards and challenges of family life:*

The human person is not only sacred, but also social. The God-given institutions of marriage—a lifelong commitment between a man and a woman—and family are central and serve as the foundations for social life.

Marriage and family should be supported and strengthened, not undermined.

Catholic Social Teaching

- *Rights and responsibilities.*

Every person has a fundamental right to life—the right that makes all other rights possible. Each person also has a right to the conditions for living a decent life—faith and family life, food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing.

Catholic Social Teaching

- *Option for the poor and vulnerable.*

The Church calls on all of us to embrace this preferential option for the poor and vulnerable, to embody it in our lives and to work to have it shape public policies and priorities. A fundamental measure of our society is how we care for and stand with the poor and vulnerable.

Catholic Social Teaching

- *Dignity of work and the rights of workers.*

Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's act of creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers, owners and others must be respected—the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and choose to join a union, to economic initiative and to ownership and private property.

Catholic Social Teaching

- *Solidarity.*

Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace.

Catholic Social Teaching

- *Caring for God's creation.*

The world that God created has been entrusted to us. Our use of it must be directed by God's plan for creation, not simply for our own benefit.

Resources:

Faithful Citizenship and Developing a well-formed conscience.

<https://www.usccb.org/offices/justice-peace-human-development/forming-consciences-faithful-citizenship>

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL18AF7577177E12D9>

<https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/upload/The-Challenge-of-Forming-Consciences-for-Faithful-Citizenship-Part-1.pdf>

<https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/upload/The-Challenge-of-Forming-Consciences-for-Faithful-Citizenship-Part-2.pdf>

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/pro-life-activities/understanding-conscience>