

Dear Paulist Center Social Justice supporters,

This is a letter to the community from the volunteer leaders of five of our social justice ministries (Immigrant Advocacy, Racial Justice, Creation Care, Food Pantry, Wednesday Night Supper Club), regarding the upcoming election. It's the same document that was referenced in the Missive/Bulletin for October 19-20. **Thank you for paying attention, and for taking action!**

All elections are important, but this year's races are especially so, for the short and long term future of our country and our communities. As we make our own decisions and, even more importantly, as we share our point of view with others, it's really important that we look through the lens of catholic social teaching which the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and others summarize in these principles:

Human Dignity. The human person is sacred. Human life is to be honored and respected.

Solidarity. We are all brothers and sisters. The Church emphasizes a preferential option for the poor. The common good embraces all; however, those who are weak, vulnerable, and most in need deserve preferential concern. Solidarity also includes the scriptural call to welcome the stranger among us - including immigrants seeking work, ensuring that they have opportunities for a safe home, education, and a decent life.

The Common Good. Social conditions must allow people, individually and as groups, to reach fulfillment more fully and easily. The economy must serve people, respect the dignity of work, and protect the rights of workers. We have a duty to care for God's creation.

Subsidiarity. Individual or local communities must make the decisions that impact them; larger institutions such as the State or Federal government should not interfere, but must provide support to safeguard human dignity and meet basic human needs (food, clothing, shelter).

The Beatitudes (Matt 5:1-12). Jesus calls us to live and witness with compassion and a deep sense of justice, especially for those who are marginalized.

Most of our attention is focused on the presidential race, but local and congressional elections, and ballot questions, are also important.

We invite you to take action to help build a just and merciful body politic by seeking to mobilize voters and your friends, family and networks by:

- Participating in nonpartisan "Get Out The Vote" efforts like those offered by [Environmental Voter Project](#), [Interfaith Power and Light](#), [Network \(Nuns on the Bus\)](#), and others.
- Contacting friends and family in other states (especially PA, WI, AZ, GA, MI, NV and NC), encouraging them to vote with social justice in mind. Here's a [template](#) for email and social media.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

In Christ,

Chris O'Keeffe & Mi-Rang Yoon, Immigrant Advocacy Group
Tom Sharkey, Racial Justice Advocacy Group
Peter McLoughlin & Trudy Macdonald, Creation Care Team
Susan Rutkowski, Food Pantry
Emily Hankle, Wednesday Night Supper Club