

## Info Alert 214

March 12, 2024

The future is not a matter of chance; it's a matter of choice. *Dylan Corbett*

### Immigration

There has been so much conflicting information about the border recently, that I urge each Sister to take the time to view this webinar: *Telling the Truth About the Border: A Humane Vision for Border Management*. This webinar was produced by the Center for Migration Studies which is an arm of the USCCB. It features four panelists, beginning with Bishop Mark J. Seitz who heads the USCCB Committee on Migration and serves as the Bishop of El Paso, TX. The remaining panelists present a picture of their experience working with migrants and asylum seekers in Texas, Arizona, and San Diego. Each panelist addresses the involvement of the Catholic Church, the danger that politicizing the border has presented, and the possible, real solutions that could benefit both those seeking entry into our country and our country's economy as well. Faith-based organizations have been picking up the broken pieces of an immigration system for decades. The federal government, through FEMA, and local governments have collaborated to fund NGOs. Only recently have these faith-based organizations come under attack. Listen to Bishop Seitz's response to Governor Abbott and Attorney General Paxton's baseless claims in a lawsuit leveled against Annunciation House. *Telling the Truth About the Border: A Humane Vision for Border Management*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXypEHAVPpE>

### Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship/Equally Sacred Checklist

The impact of this election (2024) could very well shape the future of our country. There are not just candidates on a ballot but issues and ways of governing our country that these issues represent. There is no one perfect candidate and determining who will receive your vote can be a very difficult decision. Our Catholic Bishops have once again published the document, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, (2015) with a new introduction. <https://www.usccb.org/offices/justice-peace-human-development/forming-consciences-faithful-citizenship> They have included six bulletin inserts that summarize the key points contained within the document. They are worth reading. While our Bishops once again declare the "threat of abortion as a preeminent priority" for choosing a candidate, they cast a larger net over issues that support Catholic Social Teaching upholding the life and dignity of the human person. These issues include euthanasia, gun violence, terrorism, the death penalty, human trafficking, a lack of justice for the poor, the suffering of migrants and refugees, wars and famines around the world, racism, the need for greater access to healthcare and education, care for our common home, and more. All threaten the dignity of the human person. They also tell us, "We must consider not only candidates' positions on these issues, but their character and integrity as well." I have included for your use the **Bulletin Insert on Solidarity** from **Faithful Citizenship** and a copy of **2024 Equally Sacred Checklist** provided by Network. These are aids to help you choose your candidates.

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/Solidarity.pdf>

<https://networklobby.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Equally-Sacred-Checklist-2022-FINAL-Web.pdf>

### Who Can Help Haiti?

The question on the minds of Haitians these days is where in the world is Ariel Henry, the acting prime minister? Henry, who assumed power following the assassination of President Jovenel Moise in 2021, has been notably absent since the country's latest and most serious outbreak of violence started last week. Haiti is now under the control of the gangs. It seems that a decision reached at the meeting of Caribbean leaders, which the prime minister attended, concluded that elections in Haiti would be pushed back to 2025. That announcement is what seems to have sparked the latest explosion of violence which includes attacks on the central bank, the airport, and the national soccer stadium. The culmination of these events was the jailbreak at the National Penitentiary and another prison, released onto the streets of the capital more than 5,000 inmates. God help Haiti! Let us continue to pray for Haiti and her people.

## **Chester**

Chester Residents Concerned for Quality Living (CRCQL) is sponsoring an Environmental Justice March on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> beginning at Noon at Chester City Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Chester. All are invited to march for the right to breathe clean air. The flyer for this event is attached. Please contact Sister Joyce Bell if you are interested in attending this march. [sisterbell1031@yahoo.com](mailto:sisterbell1031@yahoo.com)

## **Civilize It: A Better Kind of Politics**

*Civilize It: A Better Kind of Politics* is a response to Pope Francis' invitation to show how we can do politics based on the key concepts found in **Fratelli Tutti**. Follow the link to find the Civilize It Website created by the USCCB. Read, pray, and take the pledge to commit to seeking the truth, building bridges, and finding solutions together that promote the common good. Share it with others. Individuals, families, and parishes can participate.

<https://www.usccb.org/civilizeit>

## **Prayer for Civility** *Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace*

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where uncivil words prevail, show me how to model love.

Help me remember the God-given dignity of all and invite others to do the same.

Show me how to build bridges and not walls and see first what unites us rather than how we diverge.

Let me seek to understand before asking to be understood.

Give me a listening heart filled with empathy and compassion.

May I be clear in sharing my position and respectful and civil in describing those of others?

Let me never tolerate hateful ideas.

May I invite all to charity and love.

Lord, help me to imitate your compassion and mercy.

Make me an instrument of your peace. Amen

## **Action**

1. Take Action by educating yourself on the Border.
2. Spend time reacquainting yourself with Faithful Citizenship and Network's Equally Sacred Checklist
3. Check out the Civilize It website and take the Pledge if you can.
4. Pray for the people in Haiti.