

## Legislative Advocacy

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Co-Chairmen



Reverend Fathers and Council Sisters: With the impending general election, we would like to draw your attention to the only election materials approved by the Florida Bishops which are those from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (usccb.org) and the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops (flaccb.org). Here is the list of the main resources these two sources are providing:



1. The document Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is the teaching document on political responsibility for American Catholics. This document can be found at:

<https://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship-title>

2. For the general election, the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops (FCCB) currently provides two resources:

a. The Candidate Questionnaire Project: [www.flaccb.org/cqp](http://www.flaccb.org/cqp) and,

b. The Presidential Candidate Comparison: <https://flaccb.org/blog/presidential-candidate-comparison-on-issues-of-importance-to-catholics>

c. A third resource, a podcast on Faithful Citizenship, will be released in the near future. The FCCB podcasts can be found by going to: <https://flaccb.org/news/fccb-launches-catholics-across-the-aisle-podcast>

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops encourages all of us to vote and to do this conscientiously “by studying Scripture and the teachings of the Church, examination of the facts, and prayerful reflection.”

Update on Assisted Suicide Florida Stakeholder Group, Coalition in Opposition to PAS September 8, 2020

1. The Zoom Presentation included 7 talking points (abridged): (a) ***'It's my decision'*** depression, hopelessness and other underlying conditions are the main drivers of suicidal thoughts. (b) ***"I don't want to suffer"*** Loss of autonomy, loss of dignity and concerns over being a burden... (c) ***"It's my choice"*** profit-driven insurance companies have economic incentive to deny expensive lifesaving treatment... (d) ***"I want a peaceful, dignified death"*** Authentic palliative and hospice care provide extensive support and pain management... (e) ***"The vulnerable and elderly are protected"*** Under Assisted suicide laws, abusers can witness a request for lethal drugs... (f) ***"The medical community supports this"*** Assisted suicide laws circumvent primary care physicians and mental health professional due to lack of support... (g) ***"I'm terminally ill"*** Diabetes, arthritis and complications from a fall are all terminal illnesses... the legal definition of 'Terminally ill' under assisted suicide laws is too broad as to be meaningless. For more information or a copy of the complete handout contact Paul Ledford, CAE, DPL President & CEO Florida Hospice & Palliative Care Association [Paul@floridahospices.org](mailto:Paul@floridahospices.org) or Ken Kniepmann Associate for Health, **FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS** [kkniepmann@flaccb.org](mailto:kkniepmann@flaccb.org)

2. Ken Kniepmann, Associate for Health, FCCB believes that Compassion and Choice will introduce a bill this year in Tallahassee addressing Assisted Suicide for our State.

Legislative Advocacy Upcoming Events:

1. The Culture of Life Conference, hosted by the Diocese of Palm Beach will be held on Saturday, October 24. The conference will be online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To register, go to: <http://www.ccdpb.org/respectlife2020>. A donation of \$25 is suggested at the time of registration.

2. The "Harm, Healing, and Human Dignity: An All-Virtual Catholic Conference on Restorative Justice" will be held on October 28, 29 and 31. More information can be found at: <https://catholicsmobilizing.org/conference>

God bless,

Mary Woltman and Maria Knoll

FCCW Legislative Advocacy Committee Co-Chairs

