

Makabayan sapagkat makaDIYOS

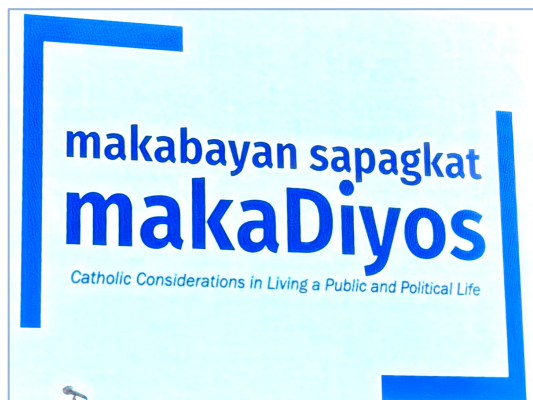
(Catholic Considerations in Living a Public & Political Life)

A Lord's Flock Praise & Worship Topic

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Many people are losing hope with the state of politics today. We may also feel hopeless because there seems to be a lack competent, honorable candidates. However, we have a fundamental Catholic teaching never to relinquish our participation in public life. God empowers us to be the "light of the world" and "salt to the earth" (Matt. 5:13-14). Our task is to infuse the temporal order with Christian values based on God's truth.



1. How do we involve ourselves in political life?

The document "*The Participation of Catholics in Political Life*" states that we have a duty and a moral obligation to be involved in political life.

- 1.1. The life of a democracy could not be productive without the **active, responsible and generous involvement** of everyone.
- 1.2. Democracy must be based on the true and solid foundation of **non-negotiable ethical principles**. It succeeds only to the extent that it is based on a correct understanding of the human person.
- 1.3. **Christian conscience** does not permit one to vote for a political program or individual which contradicts the fundamental contents of faith and morals.
- 1.4. **Legitimate freedom** means choosing among various political opinions that which are compatible with faith and natural moral law. Hence, we must select what corresponds to the needs of the common good.
- 1.5. In contrast, **cultural relativism** and

licentiousness do NOT indicate freedom. Ethical pluralism sanctions the disintegration of the principles of natural moral law.

- 1.5.1. If we believe in the "*live and let live*" mentality, we lose our sense of right and wrong.
 - 1.5.2. "*Respect differences*" means avoiding discussion and resolving differences.
 - 1.5.3. "*My life, my choice, my body*" is a form of licentiousness. We have a grave and clear obligation to oppose any law that attacks human life.
- 1.6. The Bishop has the moral obligation to educate followers on matters relating to the social order. Nevertheless, active participation and final choice is reserved to the lay faithful to choose which is **compatible with God's standard**.

2. There are three non-negotiable issues for the Church:

- 2.1 protection of life in all its stages, from the first moment of conception until natural death;
- 2.2 recognition and promotion of the natural structure of the family as a union between a man and a woman based on marriage;
- 2.3 protection of the right of the parents to educate their children.

Conclusion: Our hope is anchored on our faith. The **Jubilee Year of Hope** assures us that amidst dark times, we must continue to work for peace and justice. We must remain active in public and political arena because we are part of the society. Moreover, as Christians we must be witnesses to God's truth.

Reflection

1. Have you started thinking about your participation and choices for the coming elections?
2. Which part of the teaching will impact your decisions?

SCRIBES Ministry

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