Peace & Social Justice Resources

Elections & Voting Preparation 2020
Minnesota Secretary of State https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/how-elections-work/precinct-caucus/
League of Women Voters https://www.lwvmn.org/voting-information

Suggestions for Reading/Reflection in Preparation for 2020 Nominations and Elections
Agriculture & Food
Environment https://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/cause/environment/
Catholic Rural Life https://catholicrurallife.org
Food Security/Sustainable Agriculture https://www.feedingamerica.org

Business & Community Development
Trade Policy https://networklobby.org/2020policyplatform/
Poor and Vulnerable https://www.mncatholic.org/advocacyarea/option-for-the-poor-and-vulnerable/

Civil, Human & Constitutional Rights
Gender Inequality https://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/cause/gender-inequality/
Equity in Criminal Justice https://networklobby.org/2020policyplatform/
Voting and Democracy https://networklobby.org/issues/votinganddemocracy/

Consumer Issues

Education
School Choice/Non-Public Pupil Aid https://www.mncatholic.org/advocacyarea/education/
Education System https://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/cause/education-system/
MN Adult Education https://centralmnabe.org

Energy
Conserve, Educate, Inspire https://www.catholicenergies.org

Government Accountability to the Public
Access to Citizenship https://networklobby.org/2020policyplatform/
Access to Democracy https://networklobby.org/2020policyplatform/
Criminal Justice System https://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/cause/criminal-justice-system/
Capital Punishment https://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/cause/capital-punishment/

Health & Human Services
https://www.mncatholic.org/advocacyarea/healthcare/
Quality, Affordable Healthcare https://networklobby.org/issues/healthcare/
Housing https://networklobby.org/issues/housing/

Labor & Employment
Livable Income https://networklobby.org/2020policyplatform/
https://networklobby.org/issues/income/
Family-Friendly Workplaces https://networklobby.org/2020policyplatform/
https://networklobby.org/issues/familyfriendlyworkplace/
https://www.mncatholic.org/advocacyarea/labor-and-economy/
CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS
https://www.cctwincities.org/education-advocacy/catholic-social-teaching/

Catholic social teaching is based on and inseparable from our understanding of human life and human dignity. Every human being is created in the image of God and redeemed by Jesus Christ, and therefore is invaluable and worthy of respect as a member of the human family. Every person, from the moment of conception to natural death, has inherent dignity and a right to life consistent with that dignity. Human dignity comes from God, not from any human quality or accomplishment.

Our commitment to the Catholic social mission must be rooted in and strengthened by our spiritual lives. In our relationship with God we experience the conversion of heart that is necessary to truly love one another as God has loved us.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Human Dignity</th>
<th>Dignity of Work</th>
<th>Community and the Common Good</th>
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<tr>
<td>Stewardship of Creation</td>
<td>Rights and Responsibilities</td>
<td>Global Solidarity</td>
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<td>Option for the Poor and Vulnerable</td>
<td>Role of Government</td>
<td>Participation in Society</td>
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<td>Promotion of Peace</td>
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BENEDICTINE VALUES
https://www.csbsju.edu/sju-campus-ministry/benedictine-values

Our values are vital to our identity. These values undergird our work and are ways in which we strive to demonstrate to live as an example of God’s love, and fit our Benedictine ethos. All of these values are paired with a quote from St. Benedict’s Rule for Monasteries.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Awareness of God</th>
<th>Community Living</th>
<th>Dignity of Work</th>
<th>Hospitality</th>
<th>Justice</th>
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<td>Listening</td>
<td>Moderation</td>
<td>Peace</td>
<td>Respect for Persons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stability</td>
<td>Stewardship</td>
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Joint Religious Legislative Coalition
Interfaith Advocacy for Social Justice
Catholic  Protestant  Jewish  Muslim

“How To Be An Effective Advocate”

Faithful Citizen’s Advocacy Guide:
Two Keys – Access: Your ability to talk to a legislator as someone you know. Credibility: Your believability on the subject you are discussing. Strategy: Gain access and protect credibility. How to Lobby: Schedule meetings: Come prepared to discuss one issue and bring written information to leave behind. Keep the meeting short; just long enough to voice your concern. Write Letters: Keep them brief and to the point. Keep them to one subject and avoid form letters. Neat, handwritten letters have the most impact. Be sure to include your name and address on the letter itself since envelopes sometimes get tossed. Use the Phone: But keep in mind it is sometimes harder to get legislators directly. Talk to the legislator’s staff. They often have better command of details and facts.

Meeting With Your Legislator:
Four Keys – Be Prepared; Be Respectful; Stay on Topic; and Leave Behind a Written Summary. Strategy: Schedule brief meetings right before key actions. Schedule longer, in-depth meetings during interim. After social pleasantries, get right to the topic. Make your case. Ask politely for action. Listen to the reply and state what you hear. Address any objections, if you can.

Calling Your Legislator:
Four Keys – Be brief; Be Timely; Rehearse; and Be prepared to leave a one-sentence message. Strategy: If you cannot say what you need to say within three minutes, write a letter.

Writing To Your Legislator:
Four Keys – Be brief; Be legible; Be polite; and Be timely. Strategy: Write the right legislator at the right time. You want your letter to reach a decision-maker right before they vote on the issue. Responding quickly to organizational alerts is crucial.

Writing Letters To The Editor:
Do: Respond directly to a recent article, editorial, letter, or local event. Be sure to reference the publication date and title of the article. Focus on a single issue. Keep it brief. Stick to the publisher’s word limit, usually 250 max, often less. Use verified facts. Start with a strong opening statement that establishes your position. Use plain language and personal stories. Look at other recently published letters to get an idea of what the publication looks for when deciding what to print.

Voter Information:
REGISTER TO VOTE  Who can vote in Minnesota – You must be: A U.S. citizen; At least 18 years old on Election Day; A resident of Minnesota for 20 days; Finished with all parts of any felony sentence. You can vote while under guardianship unless a judge specifically has revoked your right to vote. You cannot vote if a court has ruled that you are legally incompetent.
ELECTION DAY VOTING  Where do I vote – Polling Place Finder (pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us) Your Polling Place (where you vote, map and directions); Districts for your precinct (including maps); “Candidates on My Ballot” (candidates and questions on the ballot at your next election, when available). Entering your Zip Code on this site includes Minnesota’s 87 counties. The 2020 Presidential Primary will be on March 3. The United States presidential election is on November 3, 2020.
OTHER WAYS TO VOTE  Vote early by mail; Vote early in person; Vote from military or aboard; Track your absentee ballot. In Minnesota, you can vote early with an absentee ballot starting 46 days before Election Day.
WHAT’S ON MY BALLOT  The sample ballot shows a list of the candidates and ballot questions you’ll be voting on. Information is posted about 45 day before an election. Sample ballots is not available for all local elections. You may need to contact the local government (city, town, or school district) holding the election.
Detailed information is available: https://jrlc.org
and https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/

MINNESOTA LEGISLATORS

Who Represents Me?

Zip Code: 56374  Tim O’Driscoll (R) MN House –13B  651-296-7808  rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn
and 56377 Jeff Howe (R) MN Senate –13  651-296-2084  sen.jeff.howe@senate.mn
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Amy Klobuchar (DFL) U.S. Senate  888-224-9043  sen.amy.klobuchar@senate.mn
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Minnesota State and Federal Elected Officials  https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/
Minnesota County Websites   https://mn.gov/portal/government/local/counties/
Links
We provide links to other Web sites that we believe you will find useful or relevant. sbm.osb.org is not responsible for the privacy practices or the content of such Web sites.