

A Season of Creation Webinar: Putting our Faith in Action by Voting to Protect our Common Home



Catholic Climate Covenant™
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

September 28, 2022



Catholic Climate Covenant Season of Creation Education 2022

- This is the second of two webinars for the Season of Creation 2022. To watch a recording of webinar 1 (“A Powerful Opportunity for the Faith Community”) please visit catholicclimatecovenant.org
- The webinar is being recorded and a link to the recording will be sent to everyone who registered within the next 24-48 hours.
- Please type your questions in the Q/A box. If you know who the question is directed to, please add that information to your question.
- This webinar precedes three action events to text Catholic voters across the country before the midterm elections!



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Putting our Faith in Action by Voting to Protect our Common Home

Prayer Before an Election

*Lord God, as the election approaches,
we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our country,
and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community.
We ask for eyes that are free from blindness
so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters,
one and equal in dignity,
especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty.
We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children unborn and those abandoned,
Men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender.
We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your Kingdom.
We pray for discernment
so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word,
live your love,
and keep in the ways of your truth
as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his Apostles
and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace.
We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*



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~United States Conference of Catholic Bishops



Putting our Faith in Action by Voting to Protect our Common Home



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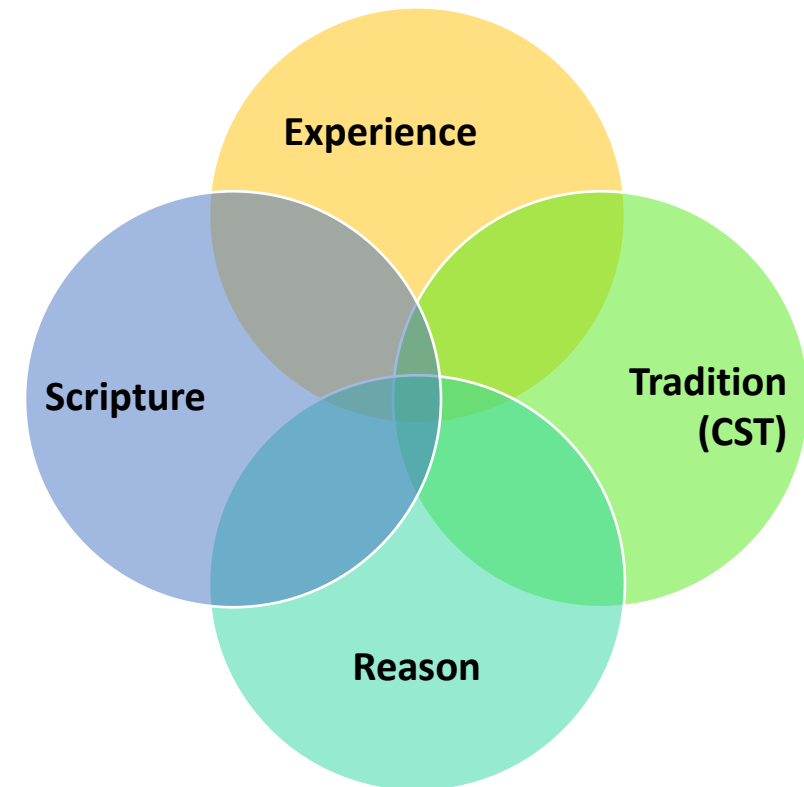


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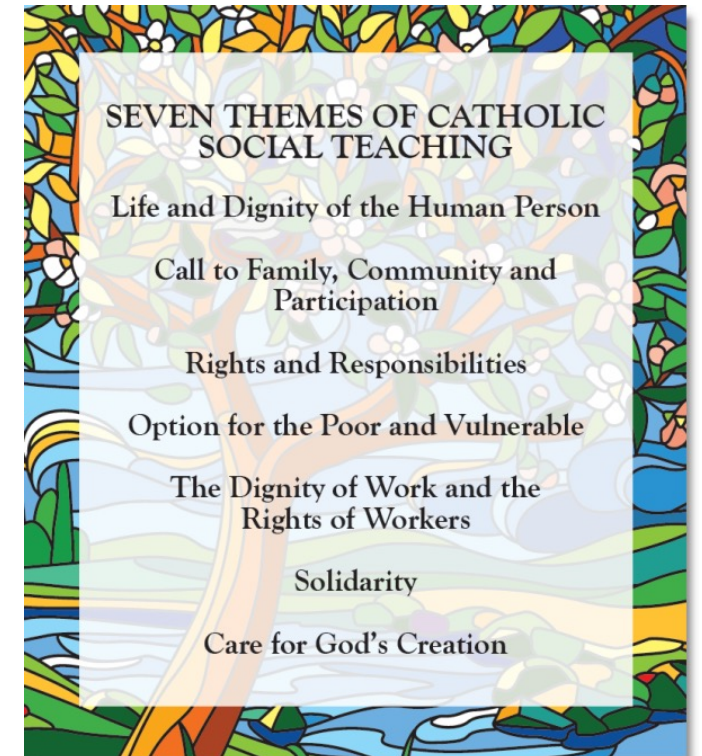
Conscience and Formation

1. **Capacity** to know / do the good (Gula, *Reason Informed by Faith*, p. 131)
2. **Process** of moral discernment about right actions (Ibid.)
3. **Judgment** about right action (Ibid.)
4. **Place**, i.e., the most secret core and sanctuary of a person. There [one] is alone with God, Whose voice echoes in [her/]his depths” (*Gaudium et Spes*, no. 16)
 - “Ultimately, conscience is the whole person’s commitment to values and the judgment one must make in light of that commitment to apply those values” (Gula, p. 131)



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 - “Ultimately, conscience is the whole person’s commitment to values and the judgment one must make in light of that commitment to apply those values” (*Gula*, p. 131).
 - “It cannot be emphasized enough how everything is interconnected” (*Laudato Si’*, no. 138)



“The Climate Emergency”

- Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
 - Limit global warming to 1.5°C (1.07°C since 1850)
 - >50% chance requires:
 1. Global GHG emissions peak by 2025
 2. Cut ~50% by 2030
 3. Net zero CO2 by ~2050 (90% direct reduction)



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11 December 2020

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by António Guterres

America
THE JESUIT REVIEW

POLITICS & SOCIETY NEWS

Pope Francis: Vatican City commits to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050

CRUX Taking the Catholic Pulse

Pope Francis and faith leaders call for net-zero carbon emissions ahead of UN summit

- “...limiting temperature increase to 1.5°C . . . reduce to zero, as quickly as possible, net greenhouse gas emissions...” (Pope Francis, 2022 *Message for the Celebration of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation*)

Conscientious Voting – Candidates

- Voting supports candidates – not issues (Bishop Robert W. McElroy, “Bishop McElroy on voting with faith and a conscience,” *National Catholic Reporter*; Kaveny, *Law’s Virtues*, p. 198;)
 - Voting discernment considers how **candidates** will promote interconnected values and oppose disvalues
 - Considerations (Kaveny, p. 199, quoted directly):
 1. **Competence**—Does the candidate have the intellectual capacity, the experience, the temperament, and the judgment to do the job?
 2. **Character**—Does the candidate have a good set of moral values and the integrity to pursue them?
 3. **Collaboration**—Can the candidate work well with other people, both political allies and opponents?
 4. **Connections**—[Influences] e.g., party affiliations, lobbyists, and corporate and individual donors.
 - Issue stance: **Judges** something a problem, **diagnoses** a cause, **proposes** a solution (Ibid., p. 201)
 - Provides insights into her/his competence, character, collaboration, and connections (Ibid.)
 - Reveals priorities (Ibid., 203-205)
 - Fundamental, amenable to change, urgent (timeliness, severity vis-à-vis values, etc.)
 - Discernment of interconnected values requires discernment of interconnected issues
 - Indicates how a candidate will likely promote or undermine integrated values

Conscientious Voting – Issues

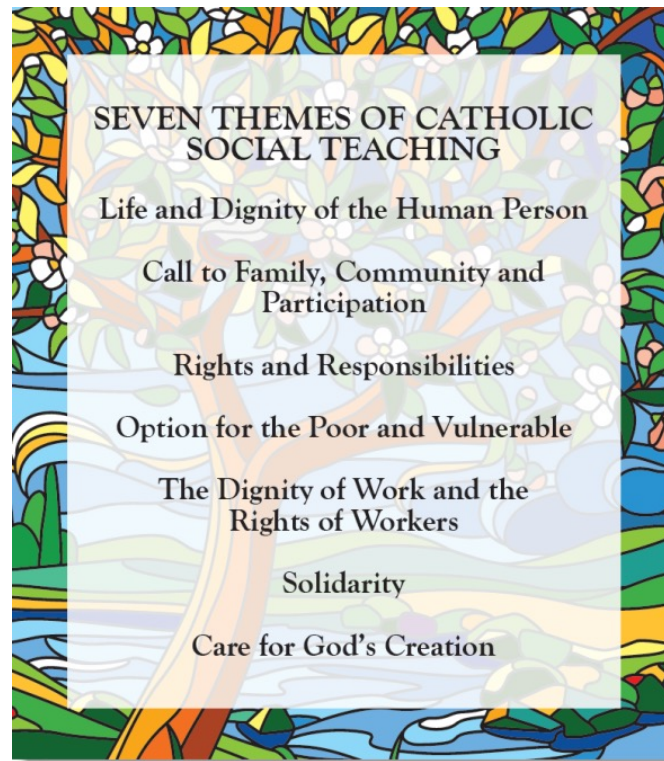
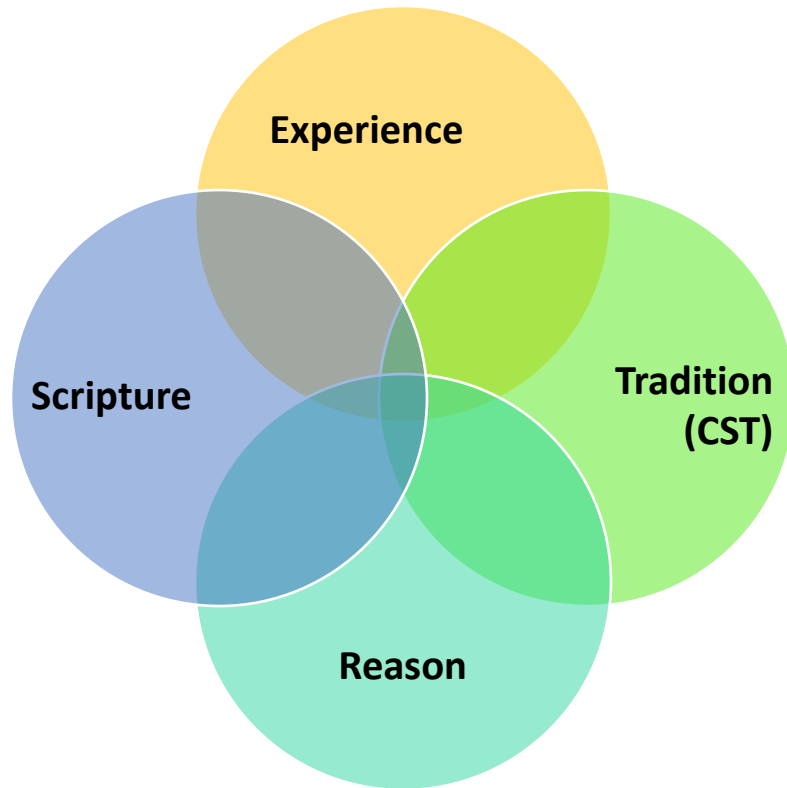
- “It cannot be emphasized enough how everything is interconnected” (*Laudato Si’*, no. 138)
 - *No issue has a monopoly on a value*
 - “The threat of abortion remains our preeminent priority” (USCCB, *Forming Consciences*, p. 6)
 - This statement is issue-based—not candidate-based or interconnected values/disvalues-based
 - “As Catholics we are not single-issue voters” (Ibid., no. 42)
 - “Single-issue voting has corrupted Christian political witness” by Bishop Mark J. Seitz (*America Magazine*)
 - Non-infallible prudential judgment owed “serious consideration when [Catholics] are forming their own views” (U.S. bishops, *The Challenge of Peace*, Introduction)—but with which Catholics may conscientiously disagree
 - “It could be argued that creation is the preeminent issue because without the environment to sustain human life you can’t have human **life**” – operative value (Bishop John E. Stowe, “Environment, other issues beyond abortion are critical in voting, bishop says,” *National Catholic Reporter*, emphasis added)
 - “We have been called to form consciences, not to replace them” (*Amoris Laetitia*, no. 37)
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Conscientious Voting - Cooperation

- Cooperation with Evil
 - Formal Cooperation: One acts foreseeing and intending to advance the evil of another; never permissible
 - Material Cooperation: One “foresees but does not intend that his or her action will” advance the evil of another (Kaveny, p. 248); permissible under some circumstances
 - “When a Catholic does not share a candidate’s stand in favor of abortion and/or euthanasia, but votes for that candidate for other reasons, it is considered remote material cooperation, which can be permitted in the presence of proportionate reasons” (Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, “Vatican, US Bishops: On Catholics in Political Life,” *Origins* 34, no. 7, 2004)
 - “Reason” is a value/disvalue at stake
 - “Proportionate” means balance among the interconnected values and disvalues, especially recognizing that values/disvalues cut across issues – *No issue has a monopoly on a value*
 - “The death toll from abortion is more immediate, but the long-term death toll from unchecked climate change is larger and threatens the very future of humanity” (Bishop Robert W. McElroy, “Bishop McElroy on voting with faith and a conscience,” *National Catholic Reporter*)

Conscientious Voting

- Conscientious prudential assessment of how **candidates** will impact interconnected **values** and **disvalues** that transcend **issues**



CRUX Taking the Catholic Pulse

Pope Francis and faith leaders call for net-zero carbon emissions ahead of UN summit

- Candidates
- Competence
- Character
- Collaboration
- Connections
- Issue stances

Encounter Campaign: Next Steps!

- Three text-banking events to reach climate-concerned Catholics across the U.S.
 - Wednesday, Oct. 19: 1-2pm ET
 - Wednesday, Oct. 26: 8-9pm ET
 - Wednesday, Nov. 2: 7-8pm ET
 - States to be texted still TBD: maybe WI and AZ!
- Everyone is welcome to participate in this simple yet powerful form of advocacy and companionship! The registration links are in the chat – please sign up!



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Questions?



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Email us at: info@Catholicclimatecovenant.org

More info:

We're All Part of God's Plan(et)
www.Godsplanet.us

&

Catholic Climate Covenant
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