



SCRIPT FOR PASTOR, PRESIDING PRIEST OR ASSISTING DEACON

[As we've heard today] the Gospel calls us to live our faith not only in our private lives, but also in the public square. We now have the opportunity to do so in a concrete way.

The Church addresses public policy issues at the federal level through the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and at the state level through Michigan Catholic Conference. Today we will briefly discuss our state Catholic Conference and how you can get involved.

Michigan Catholic Conference advocates on behalf of our bishops for the common good and the dignity of the human person before the Michigan Legislature and other elected officials.

The issues of interest to the Church are diverse. They are unified, however, by a consistent understanding of the dignity of the human person, and of our obligation to uphold the common good and protect the poor and vulnerable. These issues include:

- Defending religious liberty and conscience rights for individuals and institutions,
- Supporting life at every stage, reaching out to pregnant women, and ending the destruction of unborn human life,
- Giving all families access to quality educational choices, and supporting Catholic school students and teachers,
- Preserving the safety net for low-income families, immigrants, and other vulnerable populations,
- Upholding marriage and the family, and
- Fighting for civil rights, economic and social justice.

As a Catholic, your voice is a vital part of the Church's advocacy. As constituents, you can have enormous influence regarding lawmakers' decisions—as long as they hear from you!

Here's the good news: It's easy to get involved. The Catholic Advocacy Network is a web-based system that facilitates direct contact between you and your elected officials through email. The system is hosted on Michigan Catholic Conference's website and works like this:

When you join, you provide your contact information and the Network automatically recognizes your elected officials based on your home address. Then, when the Legislature is about to debate an important moral issue such as those previously mentioned, you will receive an email alert from Michigan Catholic Conference. The email will link you to a pre-drafted message to send to your lawmaker, which can be sent as-is, or modified to your liking in a matter of a few brief minutes.

CAN is an outreach of the Michigan Catholic Conference, the official public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Michigan

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It is important for you to know that your information will never be rented or sold. The only messages you'll receive will be from the Michigan Catholic Advocacy Network.

The Catholic Advocacy Network is a simple, important way to share our values with elected officials, and to participate as faithful citizens in the democratic process. Our Catholic voice needs to be heard on the critical moral issues of our day. To make your voice heard, please fill out the cards to sign up today or visit www.micatholic.org/can/ to sign up online. I thank you kindly for your time and participation.