

## **A Discernment of Faithful Citizenship**

### **Principles of the Bishops' document:**

- #42. Catholics are not single-issue voters. (I note, however, that once one makes any position an ultimate, he can easily find other supporting causes for his choice.)
- #35. Sometimes a Catholic who rejects a candidate's unacceptable position on an intrinsically evil act may reasonably vote for her for other morally grave reasons.
- \$40. Catholics support a consistent ethic of life.

### **Intrinsically evil acts: (##22-23)**

- Abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide
- Capital punishment
- Genocide, Racism
- Torture
- Targeting of non-combatants
- Subjecting workers or the poor to subhuman living conditions (dignity of work)
- Environmental degradation, destruction of our common home (#51)
- Rejection of refugees and migrants. (#52)

Not finding a candidate who does not condone or promote one of these means

### **Formation of Conscience: (#18)**

- Commitment to truth and goodness, esp. as found in SS and Church dogmas.
- Examine the facts and background information on options
- Prayerful reflection
- Prudence

### **Values of CST:**

- Human dignity, as of divine destiny.
- Reciprocal relationship of rights and responsibilities.
- Solidarity (now including international common good)
- Subsidiarity, especially family as base of society
- Care for Creation
- Option for the poor

What *Faithful Citizenship* leaves out are some important factors in voting:

- 1) About the moral character of the candidate (truthful, just, compassionate)
- 2) About his ability to attend to new facts, change his position when necessary
- 3) skills in governing: can he/she enact her policies, fulfil his promises?
- 4) Knowledge of domestic and foreign affairs, the laws.