



Catholic Voice NC-A New Voice for Public Policy

PART I OF II

On July 2, 2008 Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh and Bishop Peter J. Jugis of Charlotte launched Catholic Voice NC (www.catholicvoicenc.org), a public policy project that will enable Catholic citizens of North Carolina to participate more effectively in political and public life. This participation is supported by Church teaching and the *Constitution of the United States of America*.

This website provides a non-partisan venue to educate and activate Catholics about Church teaching as it applies to public life and political discourse. Here is why this project is important to you:

- *The Church has a right and duty to provide moral judgment on temporal matters in society*
- *In America every outlook on life is increasingly but at times erroneously considered of equal value in discussions of public policy and legislation*
- *Catholics need to know why and how they legitimately participate in the political process and what that participation looks like in light of Church teaching and American jurisprudence.*
- *The NC General Assembly and US Congress continually take up issues of critical importance to Catholic citizens*
- *As few as 20 voters from a state legislator's district petitioning for a specific action by their legislator can often be very influential*
- *This fall Catholics throughout North Carolina will have the opportunity to participate in national, state and local elections*

Initial Focus of Catholic Voice NC: The Church has identified the consistent ethic of life as the overarching framework for all public discourse and policy. Because all life is a gift from God, respect for all life, from conception to natural death, and respect for the dignity of each and every person are of paramount importance. These principles explain why Catholics reject abortion, euthanasia, human cloning and the destruction of human embryos and affirm the universality of human rights. These issues will form the inaugural focus of Catholic Voice NC and reflect the priorities noted in the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' document, *Faithful Citizenship*.

We hope you will join us in providing a voice to our legislators on these matters of importance.

OVER FOR: Special information about Catholic Voice NC and how you may participate.



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This is the second half of an education effort to help Catholic citizens in North Carolina more effectively participate in political and public life. The first part addressed why and how Catholics participate in political and public life and the focus of Catholic Voice NC. This part will address how you may participate in Catholic Voice NC and answer frequently asked questions about CVNC.

1. How do I join Catholic Voice NC?
 - Visit the Catholic Voice NC website at www.CatholicVoiceNC.org and click on the tab on the left side of the home page titled “Join Us.” You will be directed to a page that will ask you for your name, address and e-mail address. Registering should take less than one minute.
2. Will my personal information be shared with anyone?
 - No. Catholic Voice NC will be the sole user of the list of names of its participants. The list will not be sold, loaned or rented to any individual or organization. The list will only be used by the Bishops of North Carolina to contact registered participants about important legislative matters.
3. How does Catholic Voice NC work?
 - Catholic Voice NC participants will receive alerts and e-mails from the Bishops when a matter of public policy that impacts Church teaching is under consideration in the legislature. When you are contacted you will be asked to get in touch with your legislators, either by telephone or by e-mail. It will be your decision to respond to the Bishop’s request. The Catholic Voice NC website will have background information on the issue that will give you the opportunity to become more informed on the topic under consideration.
4. Will I have the option to withdraw my participation in Catholic Voice NC?
 - Yes. Each time you receive an e-mail from the Bishops you will have the option to “unsubscribe” from Catholic Voice NC. If you unsubscribe you will receive no additional e-mails. You may rejoin Catholic Voice NC at anytime.
5. By registering for Catholic Voice NC will I receive spam e-mails?
 - No. Catholic Voice NC is working with Voter Voice Inc. to preserve the integrity of its data. Voter Voice Inc. has a successful track record of safeguarding its data. The company works with Catholic Conferences all over the United States.
6. Does it cost anything to join Catholic Voice NC?
 - Participation in Catholic Voice NC is free. There are no participation fees or annual dues. The costs associated with Catholic Voice NC are being shared by the Diocese of Raleigh and the Diocese of Charlotte.