

Our Catholic faith calls us to participate in the life of our communities. From conception to natural death, we are called to protect life and to promote dignity and respect for all human beings. In their **2012 Faithful Citizenship** statement, the U.S. Bishops write these challenging words: *“In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. This obligation is rooted in our baptismal commitment to follow Jesus Christ and to bear Christian witness in all we do.”* (No. 13)

In response to this challenge, the **Catholic bishops of Minnesota** have established a statewide advocacy network of Catholics who are willing to answer the call to become more engaged in the political process. On the weekend of **May 17-18, 2014** every parish in the Diocese of Crookston will hold *Life and Dignity Sunday*. During each Mass, the Catholic Advocacy Network will be explained and parishioners will be encouraged to register for the network. Completed registration cards will be forwarded to the Minnesota Catholic Conference (MCC) for inclusion in the statewide database. Our bishop will ensure that this network is *only* used for public policy.

The **MCC Catholic Advocacy Network** makes it easy for your voice to be heard in Minnesota’s Legislature and in Congress. It is an organized network of Minnesota Catholics who learn about and act on important state and federal policy issues highlighted by the Catholic bishops of Minnesota. Network members receive brief, monthly E-Updates



A voice for life and dignity in Minnesota

and notices of educational events where they can learn about and take action on legislative issues. In addition, periodic Action Alerts will be sent when the state legislature or Congress is in session asking members to make a phone call, or send an e-mail or a letter to their Senator or Representative. Pre-written communications providing key messages and talking points are provided, and they can be personalized by the sender. As few as ten messages to a state legislator from constituents on an issue will cause him or her to take notice. *Imagine what 100 can do! A strong voice for life and dignity can and will make the difference.*

There could not be a more important time for this network to grow, as Minnesota continues to face economic and social challenges. Unemployment and economic hardship continue to leave families struggling to make ends meet; our aging parents and grandparents remain vulnerable and, in some cases, lack adequate care; the K through 12 educational achievement gap between white students and students of color is growing; marriage and family life continue to be devalued, while ideologies and social trends that undermine the human dignity of all advance; and the religious liberty of the Church and her institutions, as well as the people in the pew, is increasingly under attack. As Catholics we care deeply about *all* of these “life and dignity” issues.

Our state needs a strong, clear, moral voice for life and dignity today! Your willingness to participate within this network will help the Catholic Church become a powerful voice for life and dignity in Minnesota.

JOIN US AT WWW.MNCC.ORG