

Guide to Moral Duties Concerning Voting

Application to Moral Theology

From the first century, abortion at every stage was condemned by the Church as an attack on human life, even though neither the Church nor the world understood what was happening biologically in the womb.

Today we know exactly when a unique human being begins, at fertilization.

The Church's understanding of the science, like the world's, has developed, but her supernatural sense of the faith was correct all along. Church teaching did not become true, therefore, when Pope St. John Paul II defined the meaning of the 5th Commandment, and abortion and euthanasia as direct taking of innocent human life, in *Evangelium vitae* (Gospel of Life). He merely confirmed authoritatively what was already "believed everywhere, always, by all."

The Catholic Church's Non-Negotiables

This is the address by Pope Benedict XVI in 2006 to European parliamentarians, in which he named the goods which are *non-negotiables*, and thus at the heart of the *common good*.

As far as the Catholic Church is concerned, the principal focus of her interventions in the public arena is the protection and promotion of the **dignity of the person**, and she is thereby consciously drawing particular attention to principles which are **not negotiable**. Among these the following emerge clearly today:

(A) Protection of life in all its stages, from the first moment of conception until natural death;

The Catholic Church's Non-Negotiables continued

(B) **Recognition and promotion of the natural structure of the family as a union between a man and a woman based on marriage**, and its defense from attempts to make it juridically equivalent to radically different forms of union which in reality harm it and contribute to its destabilization, obscuring its particular character and its irreplaceable social role;

(C) **the protection of the right of parents to educate their children.**

Here the Pope establishes a basic distinction, *non-negotiable common goods*—those involving “fundamental and inalienable rights” (CCC 1907).

They are morally unequivocal, and **their violation is an intrinsic evil which can never be justified by motive or circumstances.**

How a candidate stands with respect to the *non-negotiable common goods* of life, natural marriage and religious freedom is, therefore, the paramount test of worthiness to serve in public office.

Excerpts from EWTN *Guide to Moral Duties Concerning Voting* by Mr. Colin B Donovan, STL
For complete article www.ewtn.com/vote/download/moralguide.pdf

Let us Pray



***St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle,
be our protection against the wickedness
and snares of the devil.***

***May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and
do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by
the power of God, cast into hell Satan and
all the evil spirits who prowl about the
world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.***