MICHIGAN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

Modeling Faithful Citizenship in the Family

The most important place to share and reflect on Catholics' call to be faithful citizens is in the family. Just as parents are the first educwators of their children and are responsible for handing on the faith, civic responsibility starts with the adults in the family.

Using MCC's election-related *Focus* publication and other resources provided by the bishop's office or MCC, here's how you can model faithful citizenship in the home:

Incorporate faithful citizenship into prayer.

Point out to your children that the intentions prayed in Mass will often include prayers for civic leaders. Teach your children to pray for the country, the state, and your hometown. Lead a Novena for Faithful Citizenship in the nine days prior to the election.

Show your children that you are interested and engaged in the issues discussed in *Focus*.

Express your beliefs about these issues, their connection to Catholic social teaching, and share questions you have about issues or candidates. Look for opportunities to state where the Church stands on a certain issue or why you favor a certain candidate.

Ask for your children's opinions, questions, or concerns related to the issues discussed in *Focus*.

Be genuine with your interest, and really listen to what they have to say. Don't worry if they don't agree with your position or even with all the positions expressed in *Focus*.

Show that you truly respect different points of view on the issues or candidates, and that good people can disagree on specific matters without hostility.

Use campaign advertisements as an opportunity to start discussions.

Look at billboards and television advertisements for various candidates and critique the advertisements as a family. Do the candidates address any of the issues mentioned in *Focus*? How well?

Get involved yourself.

Consider attending a neighborhood association or local government meeting to hear about matters that impact your immediate community. Tell your children about the experience. Look for social activities that your whole family could get involved in, such as a pro-life march or an environmental cleanup project, for example.

Vote and let your children know that you see voting as a priority.

Bring your children with you to the polls. Discuss the election returns together and gently talk about their implications.

This resource was adapted from a similar document provided by the USCCB, which includes more on tips for applying faithful citizenship in the family. Scan the QR code or visit cthl.cc/gy6gj to learn more.

For more on how Catholics can prepare to vote in the 2026 election, scan the QR code or visit micatholic.org/electionresources.