



In the U.S. Bishops' statement, *Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility*, we are reminded that participation in the political process is a moral obligation."

The values of our faith, viewed in their entirety, should be our guide to public life. The most important place to share and reflect on this message is in our families.

### **Family Guide Do's and Don'ts**

**Do** show your children that you are concerned about the issues. Express your opinions or beliefs about these issues, and share questions you have about issues or candidates. Look for opportunities to state where you stand on a certain issue or why you favor a certain candidate.

**Don't** push your children to adopt your stance or to support your candidate. Don't preach or try to convert them.

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**Do** ask for their opinions, questions, or concerns. Be genuine with your interest, and really listen to whatever they have to say.

**Don't** worry if they don't agree with your position or even with the positions expressed in the statement. (Most of the issues addressed in the statement are very complex, even for adults.) The most important thing is that your children are aware and concerned and that they are thinking about the issues in moral terms.

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**Do** show that you truly respect different points of view on the issues or candidates —that good people can disagree on specific matters without rancor.

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**Do** get involved yourself. If you believe strongly in an issue or candidate—and hopefully you do—take an active role.

It's cliché, but actions do speak much louder than words, especially to our children. Do look for activities that your children or your whole family could get involved in with you.

**Don't** coerce or shame children into involvement, but invite and encourage it, leaving them free to participate or not. Of course, promising a favorite treat to children at the end of an activity is an excellent means of encouragement! Social action and ice cream just seem to go together.

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**Do** vote and let your children know that you see voting as a priority. Bring your children with you to the polls. Watch the election returns together and discuss their implications.

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**Do** learn more about Catholic social teaching from dignity of life through workers' rights and environmentalism. Learn candidate stances on the entire Catholic doctrine, not just specific issues.

[www.sspeterandpaul.net](http://www.sspeterandpaul.net) (Ministries/ Christian Service/ Peace)

*Next Social Justice Mtg.: Thurs.10/26/06; 7:30-9:30, Rm. 227*