



US Bishops Urge Prayer for Elections

Release Novena for Faithful Citizenship

WASHINGTON, D.C., AUG. 20, 2008 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- The U.S. bishops are inviting Catholics to pray a novena for life, justice and peace ahead of the November elections.

The prayer, titled Novena for Faithful Citizenship, is available on the Web site of the U.S. bishops' conference until the Nov. 4 elections.

Joan Rosenhauer, associate director for the U.S. episcopal conference's Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, said that the special novena is part of "the bishops' campaign to help Catholics develop well-formed consciences for addressing political and social questions."

The bishops issued their statement on forming consciences for faithful citizenship in November 2007.

Helen Osman, secretary of communications for the conference, expressed hope that the novena could help "Catholics enter into prayerful reflection as they prepare to vote."

Osman added that the bishops' conference wants to support Catholics as they weigh pre-election issues and that "providing a prayer resource on the Web can help us focus on our common values and identity as Catholics."

The bishops offer several options for praying the Novena for Faithful Citizenship. The first is to begin on Sept. 2 and pray for nine consecutive Tuesdays, up until the general election.

A second option is to begin the novena on any day of the week, whenever people gather, and pray on that day every week.

The novena can also be prayed on the nine consecutive days before the election, beginning Oct. 26, or on any nine consecutive days.

The bishops add, "Create any combination that works for you and your community -- and feel free to pray the Novena more than once."

On the Net:

Novena for Faithful Citizenship: <http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org/resources/podcasts>

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Calling all Catholics!

Pray for justice, peace, and life with the *Novena for Faithful Citizenship*. Download the Podcast and join Catholics throughout the United States in prayer, beginning Tuesday, September 2, nine weeks before the election.

Options for praying the Novena for Faithful Citizenship:

- Start on September 2 and pray for nine consecutive Tuesdays, up until the general election.
- Start the Novena on any day of the week, whenever people gather, and pray on that day every week.
- Begin praying the Novena on October 26, nine days before the election, and continue each consecutive day.
- Create any combination that works for you and your community—and feel free to pray the Novena more than once (1 Thes 5:17).

Text of [Novena](#) | [Prayer](#)

Novena Podcasts	
Novena Intro	Novena Day 5
Novena Day 1	Novena Day 6
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The music on these Podcasts comes from the collection *Hear the Prayers that Rise*, published by [OCP Publications](#).

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Catholic Social Teaching Principles Podcasts

Catholic social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. Modern Catholic social teaching has been articulated through a tradition of papal, conciliar, and episcopal documents, and the depth and richness of this tradition can be understood best through a direct reading of these documents.

In our *Catholic Social Teaching Principles Podcasts*, Paulist Father Larry Rice reflects briefly on the major themes of Catholic social teaching, and how they should shape our lives as citizens of the world and as people of God.



About Father Larry Rice, CSP

Father Larry Rice is the Director of the St. Thomas More Newman Center, the center for Catholic Campus Ministry at Ohio State University in Columbus, OH. His work at the OSU Newman Center includes responsibility for the overall mission and vision of the Center’s staff of 16 and the campus’ Catholic community, and maintaining a professional focus on ecumenical and interfaith dialogue. Since 2000, Fr. Rice has been a weekly contributor to Catholic Radio Weekly (www.catholicradioweekly.com), the flagship radio program of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Fr. Rice earned a Masters of Divinity from the Catholic University of America (1989), and a B.A. in General Arts and Sciences from the Pennsylvania State University (1983). He entered the Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle (the Paulist Fathers) in 1983, and was ordained a priest in 1989.

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