



**Sundays, April 22, 29 & May 6
1:00-2:30pm
Teresa of Calcutta Hall**



Get Ready to Vote!

FORMING OUR CONSCIENCE

As we move through an election year this series explores what it means to make mature moral decisions under the guidance of a well-formed conscience.

April 22: A Faithful Response to God's Call

April 29: A Lifelong Conversion to What is True and Good

May 6: A Part of Our Life Within the Community of Faith

**A series presented by Bernard Evans, Ph.D.
*AUTHOR, TEACHER, SPEAKER***



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He lectures frequently on the topic of Catholic Social Teaching.

**There is no fee for this series, but please register on MyBasilica.
For more detailed information call the Learning Office
at 612.317.3473**

**THE BASILICA
OF SAINT MARY**



Forming Our Consciences

for voting and for public policy formation

Basilica of St. Mary

April 22, 2012

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A. Making moral decisions: A faithful response to God's call

1. Our decisions and moral choices are not isolated acts separated from our spiritual growth and journey of faith. Every act guided by our conscience is part of our effort to give a faithful response to God's call.
2. "I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. . . . I will put my law within them and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." (Jeremiah 31)
3. Conscience is 'the most secret core and sanctuary of a person. There one is alone with God, whose voice echoes within us.' (Vatican II, *Gaudium et Spes*, 16)

B. Engaging the issues (examples)

1. Various constitutional amendments

- right to work
- photo ID for voting
- constitutional budget limits
- marriage

2. Caring for creation / environment

- biofuels
- oil & natural gas – pipeline, hydraulic fracturing
- food production & care of natural resources
- global warming / *climate change.*
- lifestyle changes

C. Resources

1. Voices for Justice (Basilica of St. Mary) *k/WWW.MARY.ORG.*
 - Our Faith
 - Tools for Advocacy
 - Advocacy Partners list
2. Basilica Green Team (Basilica of St. Mary)
 - Electronics Recycling Fundraising Project
 - Community Supported Agriculture
3. Catholic Charities / Office of Social Justice (www.cctwincities.org)
4. Minnesota Catholic Conference (www.mncc.org)

Bishops' role in guiding Catholics on political issues

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, 7 (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2011)

"In this statement, we bishops do not intend to tell Catholics for whom or against whom to vote. Our purpose is to help Catholics form their consciences in accordance with God's truth. We recognize that the responsibility to make choices in political life rests with each individual in light of a properly formed conscience, and that participation goes well beyond casting a vote in a particular election." (*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, 7*) (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2011)

The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response (U.S. Catholic Bishops, 1983)

"In this particular pastoral letter, too, we address many concrete questions concerning the arms race, contemporary warfare, weapons systems, and negotiating strategies. We do not intend that our treatment of each of these issues carry the same moral authority as our statement of universal moral principles and formal Church teaching. Indeed, we stress here at the beginning that not every statement in this letter has the same moral authority." (9)

Economic Justice for All (U.S. Catholic Bishops, 1986)

"We know that some of our specific recommendations are controversial. As bishops, we do not claim to make these prudential judgments with the same kind of authority that marks our declaration of principle. But, we feel obliged to teach by example how Christians can undertake concrete analysis and make specific judgments on economic issues. The Church's teachings cannot be left at the level of appealing generalities." (20)