



Catholic Conference of Ohio

The official representative of the Catholic Church
in public matters affecting the Church
and the general welfare of the citizens of Ohio

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Defending Life

Protecting the Poor & Vulnerable

Promoting Marriage & Family Life

Seeking the Common Good

Supporting Catholic School Parents & Students

Caring for The Environment

Supporting Work & the Rights of Workers

Protecting Religious Liberty

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Catholic Church in Ohio

1,964,274 Catholics
(17% of the State Population)

773 Parishes

122,700 Students in 385 Catholic Schools

13 Colleges/Universities

65 Social Services Centers serving over one million persons annually

84 Hospitals, Nursing Homes & Care Centers

190 Cemeteries



All human life should be protected from conception through natural death. We encourage the enactment of *effective laws* that will provide maximum protection for unborn persons, as well as support for pregnant women and birth fathers. We support adoption, helping families and individuals with special needs, and alternative stem cell research that does not destroy a human embryo. We remain opposed to assisted suicide.



We encourage programs that prioritize the needs of the poor and vulnerable. Public assistance policy should reduce poverty and dependency, strengthen family life, and help families transition from poverty through work, training, and assistance with childcare, health care, housing, food, mental health related services, eldercare and transportation. Public policies should also provide a safety net for those who cannot work.



Ohio provides over \$300 million each year in tax-funded scholarships and supportive services benefiting young people attending Catholic and other chartered nonpublic schools. Such support comes from Auxiliary Services, Administrative Cost Reimbursement, EdChoice, Ed Choice Expansion, Cleveland Scholarship, Peterson and Autism scholarships, transportation and connectivity programs.



We support efforts to end the use of the death penalty in Ohio. We believe life without parole is fair and effective. We encourage enactment of the reforms recommended by the Ohio Supreme Court Task Force, especially the recommendation that would end the death penalty for persons with serious mental illness.

Our nation's tradition of pluralism is enhanced, not threatened, when religious groups and people of faith bring their convictions into public life. The Catholic community brings to the political dialogue a consistent moral framework and broad experience serving those in need. *USCCB*



Marriage & Family Life

The family—based on marriage between a man and a woman—is the first and fundamental unit of society and is a sanctuary for the creation and nurturing of children. It should be defended and strengthened. Respect for the family should be reflected in every policy and program.



Care for Creation

Our Church teaches that out of respect for God's creation we ought to respond prudently to issues related to climate change and environmental degradation. We seek to provide input into Ohio's legislative study committee on alternative energy standards, monitor fracking issues, and encourage policies that protect Ohio's water and other natural resources.



Health Care

Affordable and accessible health care is an essential safeguard of human life and a fundamental human right. We work in conjunction with the 35 Catholic hospitals in Ohio. We seek to effectively address issues related to quality care, cost, coverage and access. We support Ohio's Medicaid expansion and reauthorization. We believe we should be able to provide health care without compromising our religious convictions.



Dignity of Work

Employers should create jobs that uphold the dignity and rights of workers—to productive work, to decent and just wages, and to the choice of whether to organize and join unions. We hold that workers are called to provide a fair day's work for a fair day's pay, to treat employers and co-workers with respect, and to carry out their work in ways that contribute to the common good.



Immigration Issues

The Gospel mandate to "welcome the stranger" requires Catholics to care for and stand with immigrants, both documented and undocumented. Until comprehensive reform is enacted at the federal level, Ohio should show judicious restraint in pursuing additional state enforcement legislation. Increased state enforcement of immigration laws by local law enforcement officers should be proportional to the need, avoid profiling, and respect the human rights and dignity of all persons. Special care should be given to preserving families and assuring humane treatment throughout the process.



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