

Catholic Daughters' Guidelines on Election Politics

Catholic Daughters of the Americas is a 501(c)(3) institution qualifying for Internal Revenue tax-exempt status. Therefore, no one speaking on behalf of Catholic Daughters may encourage or discourage voting for or against a specific political party or candidate. CDA national, state and local courts do, however, take stands on issues. All members should be encouraged to participate in the election process.

Five non-negotiable issues: There is a hierarchy of truths in Catholic social teachings. Defending innocent human life and protecting marriage are not just "single issues." Rather, they help us judge all other important issues through a lens of truth. Based on Church teachings, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and encyclicals of the Popes, the following five issues are considered intrinsically evil, that is they fundamentally conflict with the moral law and can never be performed under any circumstances. Catholics must never support them in any way. It is a serious sin to deliberately endorse or promote any of these actions.

1. Abortion

Abortion is the intentional and direct killing of a innocent human being, and therefore it is a form of homicide. The unborn child is always an innocent party, and no law may permit the taking of his life. Even when a child is conceived through rape or incest, the fault is not the child's, who should not suffer death for others' sins. Also non-negotiable are the Church's positions against contraception, in-vitro fertilization (IVF) and sterilization.

2. Euthanasia

Often disguised by the name "mercy killing" or "assisted suicide," euthanasia is also a form of homicide. No person has a right to take his own life, and no one has the right to take the life of any innocent person. In euthanasia, the ill or elderly are killed, by action or omission, out of a misplaced sense of compassion, but true compassion cannot include intentionally doing something intrinsically evil to another person.

3. Embryonic Stem Cell Research

Human embryos are human beings. "Respect for the dignity of the human being excludes all experimental manipulation or exploitation of the human embryo." No cures have come from embryonic stem cells, but many cures have come from adult stem cells, which can be obtained without doing harm to the adult from whom they came. Thus, there is no valid medical argument in favor of using embryonic stem cells.

4. Human Cloning

"Attempts...for obtaining a human being without any connection with sexuality through 'twin fission,' cloning, or parthenogenesis are to be considered contrary to the moral law, since they are in opposition to the dignity both of human procreation and of the conjugal union." Human cloning also involves abortion because the "rejected" or "unsuccessful" embryonic clones are destroyed, yet each clone is a human being.

5. Homosexual "Marriage"

True marriage is the union of one man and one woman. Legal recognition of any other union as "marriage" undermines true marriage, and legal recognition of homosexual unions actually does homosexual persons a disfavor by encouraging them to persist in what is an objectively immoral arrangement. The church teaches that it is "gravely immoral for a lawmaker to favor legislation recognizing homosexual unions.