

PASTOR'S COLUMN

“Catholics in Political Life”

In recent weeks there has been much written in the media regarding the question of Catholics in political life, in regard to stances they may take concerning certain issues which are contrary to Catholic teaching, and whether these men and women should be denied the Eucharist because of those public positions.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in a recent meeting discussed this topic and issued a statement, “Catholics in Political Life.” This statement is included in today’s Bulletin. You are encouraged to take time to read and reflect upon it.

The statement, “Catholics in Political Life,” was adopted by a vote of 183-6. It came after the Task Force on Catholic Bishops and Catholic Politicians made an extensive interim report at the USCCB’s special assembly, held in Denver, June 14-19, 2004. The Task Force will continue to work and a presentation will be made at the November meeting of the USCCB.

Regarding the matter of “pro-choice” politicians and Holy Communion, Bishop Robert Brom, our Bishop, has issued this statement for our Diocese:

“In my judgment at this time, it is not prudent to deny Holy Communion to Catholics in political life because of their public support for abortion on demand. At the same time, it must be remembered that Catholics who are living in grave sin or who reject the doctrine of the Church should abstain from the Eucharist. This goes beyond Official Church teaching on the moral evil of abortion and does not apply only to those in public life.”

F. Mike