



Secretariat of
Catholic Education



Office of the President

September 2, 2008

Dear Colleagues in Catholic Educational Ministries,

The recent publication of the guidance document, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, by the Catholic Bishops of the United States, sends out a strong call to all of us to participate in public life guided by the values of our faith. In addition to our personal efforts to meet this goal, we can also engage in helping children and youth, through our educational ministries, to form faith-filled consciences that will guide their future decisions and help them become informed and engaged citizens in their daily lives.

With that privileged position in mind, *we encourage you to make full use of the web site, www.faithfulcitizenship.org, by incorporating its ideas and lesson plans into your programs and activities. The web site and its interactive, multimedia materials are helpful for:*

- religious education programs
- elementary and secondary Catholic school classes
- independent research and study projects
- youth ministry programs
- intergenerational family settings
- Boards and Parent Associations

Below are some specific suggestions for the pre-November weeks of the new school year, and beyond:

- to acquaint you with the web site's content and format
- to give you a jump start on selecting the most promising and age-appropriate materials for your educational setting.

A. For children in the middle grades, use the Elementary lesson plans at http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org/teachers/lesson_plans/elementary

Each of the **six Lesson Plans** develops a specific theme through an opening prayer experience, a reading from Scripture, questions to generate discussion, opportunities to correlate the discussion with real life situations, suggested action/behavior points and a closing prayer. For example:

- Lesson Plan B – Forming Consciences (St. Paul and the law written in our hearts)
- Lesson Plan E – Solidarity, One Human Family (Parable of the Good Samaritan)
- Lesson Plan F – Option for the Poor and Vulnerable (Corporal works of mercy)