



STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, November 3, 2024

Pax Christi Prayer for the Election Season

In his message in the *Catholic Standard* of October 4, 2024, "Approaching Election Day as Citizens and People of Faith," Cardinal Wilton Gregory states, "But the truth is we cannot simply sidestep civic affairs. **Voting is not only a privilege; it is a sacred responsibility that we shoulder for the direction of our community, state and nation.**" Cardinal Gregory reminds everyone that prayer is an important part of the election process as he says, "The Holy Father's advice here is sound – pray first, and then choose in good conscience." (*SSJ Center for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation*, 10/25/24)

A PRAYER FOR THIS ELECTION SEASON By *Dianna Ortiz, OSU, Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace*

God, Promise Keeper of the new creation, in this election season guide us to be **Gospel-informed voters**, who stand on the side of justice and truth.

As a community of conscience, we recognize our shared responsibility in righting the wrongs that dishonor and dehumanize the dignity of the most vulnerable among us.

As a **community of conscience**, we acknowledge the harm that has been done to the environment and the urgency to work collectively to care for the Earth, **our common home**.

We see our country in turmoil—experiencing a time of chaos that not only impacts every person of this nation, but peoples from across the globe.

As individuals and a faith community, we recognize that **we bear a privilege and a burden** to vote our conscience and to make choices that will and do affect the future of everyone.

As we ready ourselves to go to the polls this November, may our time of discernment be **rooted in the teachings of our faith and our common life together**.

May our faith guide us to vote for **genuine servant leaders**, who, like Jesus, will welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the prisoner, embrace the sick and dying, and promote peace and nonviolence.

Send your Spirit to be with us as we cast votes for **the common good**, and, regardless of the outcome, may we continue to work **for a more just, sustainable world**.

May we always **stand on the side of justice and truth**. Amen.

Comments on this column may be directed to the Social Justice Committee at socialjustice@holycrossphl.org.
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