



## STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH All of God's Creation

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, September 22, 2024

### *Voting for Creation*

Voting is an important way for Catholics to live their faith, which “always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 183).

“Catholic Social Teaching offers valuable guidance for evaluating political candidates and policies. Key principles include the **dignity of the human person**, which highlights the need to support vulnerable populations through policies on healthcare, social services, and economic equality. The **common good** stresses that policies should benefit society as a whole, while **solidarity** calls for support of marginalized communities and justice issues. **Subsidiarity** advocates for decisions to be made as locally as possible, and **care for creation** underscores the importance of addressing environmental issues. **Economic justice** focuses on fair economic systems that protect workers’ rights and address income inequality....

Pope Francis reaffirms the call to engage in elections with a focus on the common good. By considering questions through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching, voters can make informed decisions about which candidates best serve the welfare of the whole community...” (*SSJ Center for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation*, September 2024 Monthly Digest).

**Regarding the care for creation**, Conservation Voters of PA has released its [Pennsylvania Environmental Scorecard](#) which grades members of the Pennsylvania House and Senate on how often they voted for, or against, the environment during the last legislative session. “We need more legislators to stand up for the water we drink, the air we breathe, and the lands we love. The best way to turn state lawmakers into champions is by showing them that you’re paying attention.” (Katie Bloom, *Conservation Voters of PA*, 8/19/24)

“The cost of climate inaction couldn’t be clearer. We’re seeing it all around us. As just one example, around 130 million people in the United States were under threat from a long-running heatwave in July – from the East Coast to the West Coast. The choices we make today will determine the world we leave behind for future generations.” (*Climate Reality Project*, 7/31/24)

### **Important Deadlines for Pennsylvania**

Last day to register to vote: **October 21st**. Click here to [register](#) or [check your voter registration](#).

Last day to request a [mail-in ballot](#): **October 29th by 5pm**.

General Election: **November 5<sup>th</sup>**.

Mail-in ballots must be received by 8pm on Election Day (postmarks will not be honored).

Check out the Committee of Seventy’s [2024 Voter Guide](#) for updated information.

Comments on this column may be directed to the Social Justice Committee at [socialjustice@holycrossphl.org](mailto:socialjustice@holycrossphl.org).