

# Conversations Over Coffee\*



*Sitting down with a Mocha Frappuccino or a Chai Tea Latte? Ready to philosophize, hypothesize, and theologize about the purpose of life? Then pull out your copy of *Faithful Citizenship* and sit down with a friend or two to reflect on the document's deep themes: What are our most basic beliefs about life and humanity? Why are we here? Use the questions below, or go where the spirit (and the caffeine!) leads.*



1. What is your view of human beings? Do you agree that all people are created in God's image and with dignity? How does this belief relate to your views and understanding of people who are suffering?
2. Do you think it is appropriate for the Church to try to influence politics? Do you agree with the bishops' perspective in paragraphs 9 to 12 of *Faithful Citizenship*?
3. Should people bring their religious beliefs into their political decisions and involvement? Why or why not? (See paragraphs 13-16 to spark conversation.)
4. What do you think it means to be a "faithful citizen"? Would you call yourself one?

5. The seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching are summarized in paragraphs 40-56. Which of these themes help you to view issues in new ways? Which of these themes do you think are most often forgotten in public discourse?



6. What goes into developing a person's conscience? What helped you develop your conscience in your own life? What is the relationship between conscience, the virtue of prudence, and your political decisions? (See paragraphs 17-20.)

7. How can "avoiding evil" and "doing good" be seen as two sides of a coin? Do you think that both are necessary to be a "faithful citizen"? Why or why not? (See paragraphs 21-25)

8. What issues mentioned in the document do you feel called to do something about? What do you feel called to do?



9. Have you ever fallen into either of the two "temptations in public life" that the bishops describe in paragraphs 27-29? Or, have you ever witnessed a situation in which one of these attitudes was present? What was the result of such ways of thinking?

10. How do you think society, and politics, would change if all Catholics became committed to being "faithful citizens"?



**Need more to talk  
about over coffee?**

Visit the Young Catholics section of [www.faithfulcitizenship.org](http://www.faithfulcitizenship.org) to take the Faithful Citizenship Quiz and for resources to become a leader in helping your community and peers to think about *Faithful Citizenship*.