

25 November 2019

No One Catholic Preeminent Priority

We, the undersigned Roman Catholic Women Bishops call upon our brother bishops to re-evaluate their latest statement regarding the priorities for the Catholic people.

On November 12, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops adopted a letter that will serve as the introduction to a voting guide that will be issued before the 2020 U. S. election.

In that document, the bishops cite a singular “*preeminent priority*” for Catholics to consider as they cast their ballots, which effectively dilutes the importance of all other prominent social issues.

We concur with and applaud the efforts of Bishop McElroy, Cardinal Cupich and Cardinal Tobin who warned the bishops against advocating for exclusive, single-issue choices. Pope Francis, in his exhortation, *Gaudete et Exsultate*, also pointed to the danger inherent in the reductionist approach of defending only one issue.

We are vitally concerned with the extremely urgent issue of a climate emergency, which will affect all of God’s people and all of God’s creation. We are vitally concerned with U. S. immigration policies that separate children from their parents and hold children and adults in cage-like structures, while denying many asylum-seekers due process. In addition, we abhor the current efforts to deport DACA recipients. We are vitally concerned with gun violence, with overt and covert racism, and white supremacy in this country. We are vitally concerned with the inequity of health care, especially as it pertains to the poor. We are vitally concerned with the lack of equality for women and the lack of respect for women’s leadership both in the Church and society.

As people in search of the common good, we must grapple with many social justice problems without the limitations implied by one preeminent priority.

It is our fervent hope that all citizens will exercise their responsibility to inform themselves and weigh the consequences of each and every moral issue of the day.

In Christ,

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