CATHOLIC... or CRIMINAL?

Eight Real Threats To Your Religious Freedom

by Brian Burch
President, CatholicVote
President Ronald Reagan famously said, “Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.”

Today, it is clear that President Reagan’s words were prophetic. Our precious right to religious freedom is increasingly at risk in the United States.

Under our current Supreme Court, and with the help of anti-Catholic political leaders, we have seen marriage redefined to include same-sex “marriage.” We now have taxpayer-funded abortions—despite federal law (the Hyde Amendment) which prohibits taxpayer money from being used to pay for abortions.

And decent law-abiding citizens across the country are being threatened, fined, and imprisoned for their faith.

A new rule in May 2016 announced that the federal government will soon force hospitals to perform abortions and ‘sex change’ operations or they will have to refuse all Medicare patients.

It is quickly becoming a criminal offense (a “Hate Crime”) to express opposition to same-sex “marriage” and the homosexual political agenda. Look what happened to the owners of Sweet Cakes bakery in Portland, Oregon.
They were fined $135,000 by a judge for their refusal to participate in a same-sex wedding ceremony.

The Catholic Church, in her wisdom, magisterial authority, and 2,000 years of tradition, is the most visible and profound voice for the dignity of all persons and their fundamental rights to religious liberty.

And there is no institution more loathed by radical elites in government and the anti-Catholic Left than the Catholic Church. So they look for every opportunity to harass, bully and intimidate the Catholic Church and her believers. And when they can, they even use the power of government to shut down faith-inspired institutions and organizations—including the use of punishing audits by the IRS.

Fortunately, the Catholic Church has overcome state-sponsored adversaries many times before. However, it has always done so with the one-two punch of God’s grace and faithful Catholic action.

The purpose of this booklet is to educate faithful Catholics about the extent of this assault on Catholics by our government, why it’s happening, and what we can do to restore respect for life, faith, and family in our country.

CatholicVote believes Catholics must begin by praying constantly for America. We need tens of millions of Catholics to start praying again, and praying with a true conviction in our hearts that God’s grace and blessing will return to America in response to our prayers.

In addition to a rededication to prayer, Catholics must take effective and informed civic action. We believe all Catholics have a moral duty to stand up for their faith, and to cast informed votes in elections.

We still have the good fortune to live in a Constitutional democracy where voters decide who our leaders are. Every election—from small local elections to high-profile Presidential elections—is important at this crucial time in our nation’s history. Never before has religious liberty been so endangered—and never before has the Catholic vote been so equipped to defend our precious freedoms.

This is why CatholicVote was founded and why your participation is so important.

With more than 650,000 members and supporters, CatholicVote is America’s largest lay Catholic organization educating and mobilizing faithful Catholics for effective civic and political action.

But our focus is not only on registering and turning out pro-life, pro-family faithful Catholics in election years. At CatholicVote, we know that pro-life, pro-family, pro-freedom successes at the ballot box are not sufficient. Culture is upstream of politics, and without a culture that believes in and promotes these values, our political achievements will fall flat.
But if we succeed in transforming law, politics and culture, we can restore the foundational principles that made America the freest and most prosperous nation in history.

If we fail, this great American experiment in liberty may be gone forever.

I’ll outline CatholicVote’s plan for changing our laws and culture in a moment.

But first, let’s review the extent of our government’s assault on faith...and why if we allow this to continue much longer, the America you love (the “land of the free” and “One Nation Under God”) will be lost.

THE OBAMACARE CONTRACEPTION AND ABORTIFACIENT MANDATE

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under the Obama Administration has not been a friend to Catholics. The biggest example is their assault on Catholics through the regulatory mandate under the ObamaCare law that requires all Americans (including Catholics and pro-life Americans) to purchase health insurance that includes coverage for abortifacients and contraception. When the Obama Administration refused to provide a real accommodation, the Little Sisters of the Poor had no choice but to take the Obama Administration to court to fight for their religious freedom rather than to pay for something they find gravely immoral.

Catholic Charities in Chicago says it is prepared to close its doors rather than submit to the anti-Catholic ObamaCare Abortifacient and Contraceptive Mandate.

The Archdiocese of Chicago fears that, if this ObamaCare Abortifacient and Contraceptive Mandate is allowed by the Supreme Court to stand, Catholic hospitals in the diocese will have little choice but to close their doors.

This is why CatholicVote has filed two lawsuits in federal court on behalf of Catholic business owners—one on behalf of Frank O’Brien (owner of Christy Industries in Missouri) and John Kennedy (owner of Autocam in Michigan). These lawsuits challenged the Obama Administration’s authority under

for freedom of religion and freedom of conscience. It’s also a frontal assault on America’s 75 MILLION faithful pro-life Catholics, forcing them under penalty of law to have a direct role in the killing of innocent babies in their mothers’ wombs.

An order of Catholic nuns, The Little Sisters of the Poor, refused to comply with the ObamaCare mandate that they purchase health insurance that includes coverage for abortifacients and contraception. When the Obama Administration refused to provide a real accommodation, the Little Sisters of the Poor had no choice but to take the Obama Administration to court to fight for their religious freedom rather than to pay for something they find gravely immoral.
the Constitution’s First Amendment to force businesses to provide health insurance for their employees that includes coverage for abortion and contraception.

And we won both of those cases on behalf of these courageous business leaders. It was a major victory for religious liberty...

But some political leaders, along with the anti-Catholic ACLU, continue their assault on non-profit agencies. In addition, a lawsuit to FORCE Catholic relief agencies to provide abortions and contraceptives to illegal immigrants has been filed. Kevin Appleby of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) said this about the ACLU:

“Let’s be clear about the ACLU’s purpose here: ending the productive and successful partnership between the Catholic Church and the federal government on the care and shelter of vulnerable populations.”

Cardinal Donald Wuerl of the Archdiocese of Washington, in his message to America’s Catholics, issued this CALL TO ACTION:

“We all need to ask ourselves if we are prepared to stand up for our beliefs and to speak up on behalf of our schools, parishes and charities. This is a time when we have to deepen our courage not just to hold to what we believe but to be able to speak up on behalf of that faith.” (“Silencing the Church’s Voice”)

In other words, Cardinal Wuerl is saying that faithful Catholics have a duty to do more than just sit silently in the pews. We must speak out boldly and publicly in defense of our faith, which includes defending the Church’s moral teachings.

THE TARGETING OF CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE

The ACLU recently filed Freedom of Information Act requests demanding that Catholic hospitals turn over to them all documents related to complaints against Catholic hospitals.

This maneuver is a blatant fishing expedition to create a phony record that Catholic hospitals are ‘harming’ women.

You and I know the ACLU is engaged in a shameless propaganda war against Catholic healthcare. In fact, it is entirely possible they knowingly set up certain hospitals with patients seeking abortions who then filed complaints that could be used against the hospital.

But this isn’t the first action the ACLU has taken against Catholic hospitals. They have publicly called for the following:

• A federal mandate forcing all Catholic hospitals to provide “emergency reproductive health care” (code words for abortion).
• A “systemic investigation” by the federal government of Catholic hospitals and “all necessary corrective action where violations are found.”

• Changes in federal law to force Catholic hospitals to perform abortions.

The ACLU and the radical elites who fund their work are on the march. Their plans are out in the open. The groundwork is being laid to force Catholic health care workers everywhere to take part in performing abortions—or be fined, fired, or closed down.

It’s not enough for anti-Catholic bigots like the ACLU to defend the legality of abortion. Now they are on the march to force us to pay for it—and to force our nurses and doctors to participate directly in the brutal procedure.

THE ASSAULT ON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone added new clauses to the contracts of teachers in the archdiocese that require “Catholic teachers in their professional and public lives to uphold Catholic teaching.” But the state of California cracked down.

Eight anti-Catholic state lawmakers in California wrote the Archbishop a letter asking him to remove any requirement that teachers publicly follow Catholic doctrine, saying the new clauses “conflict with settled areas of law and foment a discriminatory environment in the communities we serve.” They continued:

“Although your position wields discretion over working conditions at schools affiliated with the Catholic Church, the standards within the morality clauses would be illegal for any other employer. Your proposal goes beyond regulating behavior in the workplace and infringes upon the personal freedoms of your employees.”

The Archbishop responded with a letter to these eight lawmakers, saying: “Would you hire a campaign manager who advocates policies contrary to those that you stand for, and who shows disrespect toward you[?]—I respect your right to employ or not employ whomever you wish to advance your mission. I simply ask the same respect from you.”

Then, two of the lawmakers demanded an investigation into the “working conditions” in diocesan high schools, a blatant bullying tactic to force Archbishop Cordileone to back down on defending religious liberty.

But Catholics from across the country came through and thousands of dollars were raised for the Archbishop’s legal defense.

And the Archbishop has not backed down. He has announced he would form a committee of theology teachers to help articulate the changes.
This is not an isolated instance. These kinds of attacks on Catholic schools are now happening all across America.

For example, in our nation’s Capital of Washington, DC, the City Council passed a bill that requires Catholic University and other Catholic schools to recognize homosexual student clubs. Homosexual conduct is, of course, a sin under Catholic moral teachings. So this law forces Catholic schools to sanction and support conduct the Church and all faithful Catholics consider to be immoral and contrary to God’s law.

“If lay people don’t love their Catholic faith enough to struggle for it in the public square, nothing the bishops do will finally matter.”


RESPECTED JUDGE BANNED FOR BELIEFS

Judge Ruth Neely has faithfully served a small town called Pinedale, Wyoming for over 20 years as a local magistrate. Recently, she stated that she cannot in good conscience preside over same-sex wedding ceremonies because of her religious beliefs. This didn’t seem to bother the citizens of Pinedale. After all, magistrates in small towns like Pinedale participate in weddings on a volunteer basis... meaning they are not paid or even required by the state to preside over marriages. Judge Neely and magistrates like her have always been able to pick and choose the weddings over which they would like to preside. For example, Judge Neely could choose only to participate in the marriages of family. Or she could decline to preside over a wedding because she’s busy...or for no reason at all!

But when Judge Ruth Neely cited her deeply-held religious beliefs about marriage, some radical members of a state agency slapped her with a fine of $40,000! Then, they permanently banned her from the judiciary!

But at home, the citizens of Pinedale are in an uproar. Even several LGBT members of the Pinedale community came to her defense! They slammed the state agency for trying to force Judge Neely—who has been nothing but a model citizen and magistrate—to violate her conscience.

This shows just how far the radical elites of the Left will go to force faith-filled individuals to conform to their worldview. But even for the small town of Pinedale, this may have been one step too far.
CATHOLIC MORAL TEACHINGS ARE QUICKLY BECOMING CRIMINALIZED

With the U.S. Supreme Court now declaring that same-sex “marriage” is a constitutional right, we are seeing a rapid ramping up of government (federal, state, and local) persecution of Christians who continue to cherish traditional Christian moral teachings on what constitutes a marriage. For example...

• A judge in Portland, Oregon ordered the Christian owners of Sweet Cakes bakery to pay $135,000 in damages to a same-sex couple for declining to participate in their wedding.

• Under continuous threat of “civil rights” and “hate crimes” lawsuits from federal, state, and local governments, the Boy Scouts made the decision to change their policy to allow openly homosexual Scout Masters.

• The Mayor of Houston, as part of her campaign of intimidation against Christians, issued subpoenas to Houston pastors demanding they turn over copies of their sermons. She wanted to see if these pastors might be violating civil rights or hate crimes laws by teaching that homosexual conduct is sinful—presumably hoping to fine, perhaps even jail, these pastors and shut down their churches.

• Barronelle Stutzman, the owner of Arlene’s Flowers in Richmond, Washington, declined to provide flowers for a same-sex “marriage” ceremony because of her Christian moral beliefs. She was sued and a Benton County Superior Court Judge ruled that Barronelle violated the state’s anti-discrimination law.

The Washington State Attorney General offered to settle the case if Barronelle would pay a $2,000 fine for violating the law and agree to not discriminate in the future.

Barronelle, a grandmother and devout Southern Baptist, refused the Attorney General’s settlement offer, saying:

“You are asking me to walk in the way of a well-known betrayer, one who sold something of infinite worth for 30 pieces of silver. That is something I will not do.”

Barronelle now faces the very real possibility of losing her business, her home, her savings and other personal assets once a summary judgement is reached. But she remains firm in her convictions because, as she put it so well:
“Little by little, they are stripping us of any thought we might have, or any difference of opinion. This is our religious freedom at stake.”

- The Supreme Court of New Mexico upheld a $7,000 fine imposed on Jonathan and Elaine Huguenin for declining to provide photography services for a same sex “marriage” ceremony. In its ruling, the Court stated: “The Huguenins are free to... pray to the God of their choice...But there is a price, one that we all have to pay somewhere in our civic life.”

The United States Supreme Court is refusing to hear this appeal—which means the lower court ruling stands.

- Colorado’s Civil Rights Commission has ruled that Jack Phillips, owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop, in Lakewood, Colorado, violated the law by refusing to bake a wedding cake for two homosexual individuals. The Commission ruled that, for the next two years, Phillips must submit quarterly reports to the Commission to confirm that he has not turned away customers based on their sexual orientation. Phillips said in response: “We would close down the bakery before we compromised our beliefs.”

- Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed fired Atlanta Fire Chief Kevin Cochran because Cochran was writing a book for his men’s Bible study during his free time outside of work. In that 160-page book, half a page is devoted to the biblical view that marriage is a union between one man and one woman. Again, Cochran was not expressing his Christian belief on the job as Atlanta’s Fire Chief. He was expressing this view to his private Bible study group. In response, Chief Cochran had this to say:

“In the United States, no one should be vilified, hated or discriminated against for expressing their beliefs. One thing we should not have to sacrifice are the freedoms inherent in our great nation: freedom of speech and freedom of religion.”

As a result of all these incidents and many more, we are seeing a profound impact on the overall culture. For example...

The founder and CEO of the tech giant Mozilla Brendan Eich, was hounded out of the company he built because he had contributed $1,000 to an organization that opposes same-sex “marriage.”

A climate of fear—both legally and culturally—has been created by a combination of these laws, policies, court rulings, and media
pressure, making it increasingly difficult even to mention the truth about what the Catholic Church teaches on controversial issues.

The next step in this war on Catholics and other Christians is to use civil rights laws to force churches to conduct same-sex “marriage” ceremonies and to require churches to hire openly homosexual individuals as pastors and priests.

We are already seeing reports in the media that the opponents of religious freedom are looking for opportunities to do exactly this. That’s why it is so important to educate and inform faithful Catholics like you about what is at stake in our law, politics, and culture.

THE RADICAL ELITE’S WAR ON MARRIAGE, FAMILY, AND MORALITY

The family is the basic building block of civilization. In every religious faith, marriage has meant “a union between one man and one woman”...for the purpose of creating a family and because children do best when raised by their biological parents, whenever possible.

Under no religious tradition in the history of man has marriage ever been considered a union between two men or between two women. The recent redefinition of marriage by the Supreme Court is a perfect example of the power of radical elites in our culture—and the judicial activism on our Supreme Court.

When the Supreme Court redefined marriage to include same-sex couples in *Obergefell v Hodges*, the issue was still being hotly contested at the state level. Large numbers of Americans were opposed to this new cultural trend that disregards what marriage is and what is best for children. But the Supreme Court decided to overwrite dozens of state laws by imposing their radical view of marriage on the nation.

Now we see the latest advance in children’s books, which commonly include transgender characters.

So children as young as kindergarten are now reading books about kids who have two daddies, two mommies, and who want to change their gender.

“I have a girl brain but a boy body,” says a young child in a picture book entitled *I Am Jazz*.

In this book, the hero is a little boy named “Jazz” who likes to dress as a girl.

It was just a few years ago that few would have thought same-sex “marriage” would gain the same legal and moral standing in our society as marriage.

Now, not only has this happened, but your tax-money is now being used to pay for the indoctrination of young children into the “I Am Jazz” worldview in schools and is even being used to pay for sex-change operations through
ObamaCare and other government programs. This is how far America has sunk in just a few short years. And our federal government is fueling America’s moral decline.

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CLASSIFIES CATHOLICS AS TERRORIST THREAT

The Department of Defense under the Obama Administration has come under fire from Catholic leaders for including Catholics in a list of terrorist threats to America along with al-Qaeda and other radical Islamic organizations. Others on this list of terrorist threats included the KKK, street gangs, and white supremacist organizations.

This list appeared in a U.S. Army training presentation slide show and training manual. The overall message of the presentation insinuated that faithful Catholics, because of their beliefs, could be led to commit acts of domestic violence. But of course, the Church forbids any act of terrorism. The slide show read, “Religious extremism is not limited to any single religion, ethnic group, or region of the world.” It then listed Catholics and Evangelical Protestants as potential terrorist threats who endanger America.

But when have Catholics and Evangelical Protestants hijacked passenger airliners and crashed them into skyscrapers, killings thousands? When have Catholics detonated bombs in night clubs, hotels, shopping malls, and restaurants killings thousands of civilians, including mothers with their babies?

There have been countless terrorist attacks on civilian targets by Islamic Jihadists since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on America. Have there been any terrorist attacks during this period by faithful Catholics?

We cannot find a single example.

Yet, if you read this Department of Defense training presentation and manual, the impression you’re left with is that Catholics are every bit as dangerous and violent as al-Qaeda, ISIS, and militant Islamic Jihadists.

IRS TARGETS CATHOLIC MINISTRIES WITH PUNISHING AUDITS BASED ON “RELIGIOUS” AND “POLITICAL” VIEWS

The IRS targeted Catholic organizations—including CatholicVote—along with other Christian organizations, such as the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. This is a blatant and illegal attempt by a government agency to intimidate faith-based ministries and send a chilling message: “Do as we say or we’ll shut you down, or even jail you.”
According to an Inspector General’s report, the IRS illegally targeted organizations and ministries for audit by typing into computers keywords such as “Christian,” “Catholic,” “Constitution,” “Patriot,” “pro-life,” “liberty,” and other words that indicate an organization’s political or religious leanings.

The result is more than 500 Catholic, other Christian, and pro-life, pro-family organizations were targeted for audit by the IRS—while very few, if any, liberal organizations were targeted by the IRS for audit.

Now a new bombshell government report confirms fears that the IRS is still targeting Catholic, Christian, and other opponents of prevailing cultural and political efforts to “fundamentally transform” America.

The purpose of these audits was to intimidate, harass and shutdown organizations they don’t like and to suppress the pro-life, pro-family vote.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) report requested by Members of Congress states: “The control deficiencies increase the risk of selecting organizations for audit in an unfair manner—for example, based on an organization’s religious, educational, political, or other views.”

In fact, the IRS is unbelievably doubling down on its failed safeguards and flawed procedures.

As the Washington Times reports:

“In its official response to the report, the IRS said it demands fairness in its mission statement, but declined the GAO’s suggestion that the agency come up with a firm definition of what that means.”

“We believe the current audit selection process, existing internal controls and enhancement planned for implementation in 2016 provide more than reasonable assurance that audit selections are fair and are made with integrity.” John M. Dalrymple, GAO Deputy Commissioner for Services and Enforcement, wrote back to investigators.

Frankly, this amounts to willful negligence by the IRS and rises to the level of criminal conduct.

By becoming a political weapon, the IRS has broken a sacred trust it should have with the American people.

Yet the IRS misconduct does not stop there. A separate report by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) recently revealed that the IRS rehired about 300 employees who had been previously fired or asked to leave for employment issues ranging from fraud and falsification of documents to unauthorized access to taxpayer information.
MORE ASSAULTS ON CATHOLICS AND OTHER CHRISTIANS

• The Office of the Chief of Chaplains of the U.S. Army has now forbidden Catholic chaplains from reading, in Sunday Masses, a letter opposing the ObamaCare Contraception and Abortifacient Mandate from the Catholic Church’s military archbishop.

• The White House, under the Obama Administration, signed an executive order that will prevent any federal contractors from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Similar policies passed at the state and city level have resulted in the Archdiocese of Washington, DC getting out of the adoption business when the D.C. City Council legalized same-sex “marriage.” Catholic adoption programs were also closed in Massachusetts, Illinois, and San Francisco.

• The United Nations issued a report that openly attacked the Catholic Church for her teachings on contraception, abortion, and homosexuality.

“In deciding to go to war with the Catholic Church, President Obama has hit on one of those rare moments where his electoral interests and his ideological goals are blessedly aligned.”

Jonathan V. Last
The Weekly Standard

THIS IS WHAT’S AT STAKE

The stakes in our current political, legal, and cultural climate could not be higher.

During election years, Catholics have an obligation to vote for candidates who support our values in federal, state, and local offices. Once in office, elected officials represent us in government and use their discretion to make big decisions. The President of the United States, for example, appoints Justices to the U.S. Supreme Court. As our current Supreme Court Justices age, those appointments are going to become more frequent. We
absolutely must elect officials we can trust to appoint and confirm Justices who cherish faith, family, and freedom.

We have seen just how important the Supreme Court is in recent years and decades. Most recently, the Supreme Court (in a 5-4 decision) ruled that same-sex marriage is a Constitutional right. This would certainly be news to George Washington, James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, and America’s founders who gave us our Constitution. But that’s what the Supreme Court ruled, changing in one day the definition of marriage that has existed for millennia.

Of course, we also have the notorious 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court ruling (again 5-4) overturning bans and restrictions on abortion in all 50 states.

Though America’s founders did not intend this, the U.S. Supreme Court has become the most consequential institution of government in America. Radical Justices have seized power by ignoring the written text of the Constitution (which is supposed to be the Supreme Law of the land) and creating new laws that comply with their view of the Constitution.

We may see as many as three more radical Supreme Court Justices in the near future. If this happens, the direction of the Supreme Court will be set on a dangerous path for a generation or more.

So we really are at a crossroads for America—a “tipping point.”

To save America will require a commitment to daily prayer. It will require pro-life, pro-family faithful Catholics to turnout to vote during election years in record-breaking numbers. But that’s not all. Faithful Catholics must also fight for just laws at the state and local levels. And in our families, all faithful Catholics must renew their commitments to evangelization and the building of strong, loving families.

But the most important thing you can do is to help CatholicVote change the culture through daily prayer and CATHOLIC ACTION.

WE HAVE PUT INTO PLACE THE FOLLOWING FIVE-PART BATTLE PLAN:

GOAL #1:
Register 2,000,000 brand new pro-life, pro-family Catholics across the country.

If we succeed at this, we’ll go a long way toward locking in a permanent pro-life, pro-family majority in national elections and give every faithful Catholic a voice.
GOAL #2:
Empower 10,000,000 pro-life, pro-family Catholic voters who have not been politically active in their communities.

If we can inspire and motivate these 10,000,000 eligible pro-family, pro-life Catholic voters to get politically engaged, laws and movements hostile to faith and family would not have a chance in our country.

GOAL #3:
Continue building and improving CatholicVote’s technology operations.

The key to CatholicVote’s pro-life, pro-family Catholic voter education, registration, and mobilization operations is the massive Catholic voter database we’ve been building for the past four years to include data on 55 MILLION Catholic voters.

It’s the technology that powers all of our voter education, registration, and mobilization operations.

GOAL #4:
Distribute copies of this booklet FREE to 10,000,000 faithful Catholics.

To motivate and mobilize pro-life, pro-family Catholics to start changing our politics and culture, they must first understand just how extensive our government’s war on Catholics in America really is under the influence of a culture that has become radically anti-Catholic and anti-family...and how this war on Catholics and our faith will certainly expand and accelerate if we don’t get every American Catholic who is dedicated to faith, family, and freedom on board with this plan.

Many public figures and radical elites in our culture favor using the power of government to erase and expunge Catholic moral teachings from American public, and even private life.

This is a frightening prospect for the future. This is frightening for our children, grandchildren and future generations. What kind of a country will be passed onto them?

Our research indicates that for each copy of this booklet we distribute, there are 2.5 readers on average.

This means that if we succeed at distributing copies of this booklet FREE to 10 MILLION Catholics, that comes about to 25 MILLION Catholics who will read some or all of this booklet.

This can make a major difference in our country over the next few years because if 25 MILLION Catholics understand just how serious and extensive our government’s war on Catholics really is, and how your freedom to practice your faith really is in grave jeopardy, I can’t help but think this will motivate millions of faithful Catholics like never before.
It costs CatholicVote about 60 cents to distribute a copy of this booklet FREE to a Catholic voter. So this means we must raise $6,000,000 to fund this part of this Battle Plan—that is, if we are to achieve our goal of distributing this booklet FREE to 10,000,000 faithful Catholics.

GOAL #5:

Educate every pro-family Catholic American about our freedoms and rights.

A major part of what CatholicVote does is educate pro-life, pro-family Catholics in America about the Constitution, our fundamental freedoms, and where candidates actually stand on these issues.

We do this through mass-marketed email messages that report on current events and provide Catholics with timely reflections on issues that affect Catholic families.

One of the best ways to convert the culture is through beauty. That’s why our high-quality videos and advertisements often go viral, promoting life, faith, family, and freedom to mainstream audiences. Literally tens of millions of people around the world—Catholics and non-Catholics alike—watch our powerful videos.

Another way CatholicVote educates Catholic Americans is through educational voter guides that explain where candidates stand on the issues. Because neither party is a perfect fit for Catholics, our educational guides explain how we need to think about the issues. We analyze every politician’s voting behavior in Congress, plus their public statements and actions on issues of most concern to Catholic voters.

We then distribute Catholic VOTER EDUCATION GUIDES to tens of millions of Catholic voters.

Finally, critical to our ongoing plan is our CatholicVote smartphone app that allows us to communicate directly with thousands of CV supporters at a moment’s notice. By asking them to reach out to their networks, our app users have exponentially multiplied our ability to mobilize the grassroots.

Of course, election seasons increase the urgency for this work, but here at CatholicVote, we are making progress toward these goals every day—election season or not.

The only way we can raise this budget is with donations. Voluntary donations from CatholicVote’s members and supporters is our only source of funds.

I assure you, every dollar in donations that arrives helps, just like we need every vote. Every pro-life, pro-marriage, pro-family Catholic vote we can deliver matters.

Never believe the lie that your vote and your efforts don’t matter. This is the only reason
we lose elections...because too many faithful pro-life, pro-family Catholics have given up and believe their votes and efforts don’t matter.

Thank you so much. May God continue to bless you and your loved ones. I will anxiously look to hear back from you by return mail in the next few days. And please remember to pray for us here at CatholicVote and to pray for America.

Thank you for doing everything in your power to save the America you love for your children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,

Brian Burch
President, CatholicVote

P.S. To save the America you love from being lost forever will require a united commitment from every faithful Catholic.

FIRST, you must pray daily for America.

SECOND, you must commit to vote in your local, state, and federal elections, and try to bring three like-minded friends or relatives with you.

THIRD, CatholicVote urgently needs donations from you and many other faithful Catholics to help fund this Battle Plan—a Battle Plan aimed at mobilizing pro-life, pro-family, pro-freedom Catholics every day to change our laws and our culture—so we can save the America you love for your children and grandchildren.

To put your tax-deductible donation to work immediately, you can mail a check to:

CatholicVote.org Education Fund
PO Box 2709
Chicago, IL 60690

To make a donation online, simply visit:

www.catholicvote.org/give/realthreats
DISCLAIMER: CatholicVote.org fully supports the teachings of the Catholic Church but we do not claim to speak for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. We are a lay-led movement funded entirely by the contributions of our members, who are Catholics passionate about living out the truths proclaimed by Christ and His Church in the modern world.