

Know the Positions of the Candidates for GOVERNOR

“Human dignity is respected and the common good is fostered only if human rights are protected and basic responsibilities are met. Every human being has a right to life, the fundamental right that makes all other rights possible, and a right to access those things required for human decency – food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing, freedom of religion and family life.”

~ Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, No. 49, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2015

In keeping with its mission, the Virginia Catholic Conference aims to educate and inform Catholics about a wide range of issues. The information listed here was compiled as of Aug. 31, 2017, from policies, public statements, official and campaign websites and other resources to help voters inform their consciences before heading to the voting booth. The issues do not represent a complete list of issues that may be of importance to Catholics. The Conference neither supports nor opposes any candidate for public office. The underlined text below indicates a hyperlink to the source. Go to www.vacatholic.org to view these links.



Edward W. “Ed” Gillespie
Republican

Abortion:

During a GOP primary [debate](#), Gillespie stated, “I believe that life begins at conception and ends at natural death. ... The central role of government is the protection of innocent human life. ... I would, for example, sign a bill that bans abortion after an unborn child is pain capable, the 20-week bill. ... I would veto any effort to provide taxpayer funding for abortion in the commonwealth of Virginia.”

Death Penalty:

During the Virginia Bar Association gubernatorial [debate](#), Gillespie stated, “I do support the death penalty in cases where we’ve had heinous crimes. And it is something that I would weigh very carefully and mental health would be a factor in a decision as to whether or not to grant clemency in that case.”

Educational Choice:

On his [website](#), Gillespie states support for expanding the Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits (EISTC) program: “In Virginia, our (EISTC) program actually saves the state money – but it only raises enough funding to help 3,500 students. But with one of the lowest tax credits in the nation, businesses and benefactors are investing in other states rather than here. We need to strengthen Virginia’s EISTC program to incentivize more investment in Virginia’s children, including early childhood education.”

Environmental Responsibility:

During the Virginia Bar Association gubernatorial [debate](#), Gillespie stated, “We need to protect the Chesapeake Bay.” Gillespie released a [six-point plan](#) for adapting to sea-level rise. In a 2014 senatorial [debate](#) with Mark Warner, Gillespie said, “Norfolk is dealing with rising sea levels but people can debate what contributes to that or not.” He went on to say he does not support the Clean Power Plan.



Clifford D. Hyra
Libertarian

Abortion:

According to a [Washington Post profile](#), Hyra “supports abortion rights.” “In general, on abortion issues I would defer to the legislature. So the exception to that would be if there’s something that I feel is unconstitutional,” he said, according to a [Virginia Public Radio story](#).

Death Penalty:

Hyra [tweeted](#) in response to the Virginia Bar Association debate between Gillespie and Northam: “End the death penalty. Cost is \$1M+ for each conviction, error rate is at least 4%.”

Educational Choice:

On education, Hyra’s [website](#) states his support for introducing “more **competition** and **choice** by expanding Virginia’s charter school program, modeling it on the New York state program that shows much success, especially in the African American community.”

Environmental Responsibility:

Of Virginia’s two proposed pipelines, Hyra states on his campaign [website](#): “I would ensure that the environmental review is conducted fairly and thoroughly, according to the law.”



Ralph S. Northam
Democrat

Abortion:

Northam’s [website](#) states, “Ralph has never wavered on choice and he never will. That’s why Ralph received a joint endorsement from both NARAL Pro-Choice America and NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia and carries a 100% rating with NARAL and Planned Parenthood.”

Death Penalty:

At the Virginia Bar Association gubernatorial [debate](#), Northam said, “I do not agree with the death penalty. I support life in prison without parole.”

Educational Choice:

During the 2012 General Assembly session, Northam [voted](#) against [SB 131](#). That legislation established the Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits (EISTC) program, which provides a 65% state tax credit for donations that fund scholarships for income-eligible students to attend nonpublic K-12 schools.

Environmental Responsibility:

Northam’s environmental plan on his [website](#) includes support for “fighting climate change and sea-level rise by ensuring Virginia meets the standards put forth in the Clean Power Plan, increasing resiliency in Hampton Roads, and opposing drilling off Virginia’s coast.” It also proposes the continuation of Chesapeake Bay clean-up.



Edward W. “Ed” Gillespie Republican

Freedom of Religion:

According to a [Washington Post interview](#), Gillespie said, “I believe that we can guard against discrimination and at the same time protect religious freedoms. You know one of the things I think we have to be very careful about and guard against, for example, is for ... religiously affiliated institutions, whether they be charities or health care providers or educational institutions, they should not be stripped of their tax-exempt status or accreditation because they are adhering to the tenets and teaching the tenets of their faith.”

Immigration:

On immigration law enforcement, Gillespie states on his [website](#): “We must be able to work closely with Immigration and Customs Enforcement and with the Department of Homeland Security, and allowing for the establishment of sanctuary cities and issuing drivers licenses to illegal immigrants would make Virginians less safe.” During the Virginia Bar Association gubernatorial [debate](#), Gillespie said on the topic of in-state tuition for undocumented immigrants who were brought to this country as children, “We have scarce tax dollars and we have a hard enough time getting people who are here legally and who are citizens of the commonwealth of Virginia access to affordable college educations.”

Marriage:

According to a 2014 [Washington Times interview](#), Gillespie said, “I believe marriage is between one man and one woman and I believe that people who don’t share that view or share my faith, that doesn’t make them anti-Catholic or religious bigots. And I think people who do share my view, that doesn’t make us anti-gay either.” According to a 2017 [Washington Post interview](#), Gillespie said, “As governor you enforce the laws and the Supreme Court has made clear that gay marriage is the law and I will enforce our laws. ... I don’t seek to change it.”

Poverty:

According to the [Washington Post](#), Gillespie said, “We also have to create more opportunities and more jobs, and help people lift themselves out of poverty.” According to [PolitiFact](#), he opposes raising the minimum wage. In his 2006 book [Winning Right](#), he said he applauded a “commitment to the idea of greater cooperation between government and church-based charities” to address poverty issues.

Clifford D. Hyra Libertarian

Freedom of Religion:

No statements on Hyra’s position on freedom of religion were found. The [website](#) of the Libertarian Party of Virginia states, “Libertarians are committed to restoring and protecting civil liberties. We will protect freedom of religion, speech, press, and assembly.”

Immigration:

Hyra has used Twitter to highlight immigrants’ contribution to Virginia, [tweeting](#) in response to the Virginia Bar Association debate between Gillespie and Northam: “Immigrants are a HUGE contribution to VA economy. I know many of my clients are immigrants who came here for the American dream.”

Marriage:

No statements on Hyra’s position on marriage were found. The Libertarian Party of Virginia states on its [website](#), “As long (sic) the government is in the marriage business the law should not favor one group over another. Consenting adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices, personal relationships and marry whomever they want regardless of sexual identity, preference, gender.”

Poverty:

Hyra’s [platform](#) emphasizes the importance of “education in growing Virginia’s economy, reducing inequality and promoting growth across all of the Commonwealth.”

Ralph S. Northam Democrat

Freedom of Religion:

In a Facebook [post](#) regarding a vote on [SB 1324](#) during the 2017 General Assembly session, Northam stated, “The Senate’s ‘religious freedom’ ban is state-sanctioned discrimination against LGBT Virginians. It’s immoral, and it will hurt our economy.” SB 1324 sought to prohibit state government discrimination against clergy or religious organizations for following the teaching that marriage is between a man and a woman. During the 2012 General Assembly session, Northam voted against [SB 349](#) in a Senate floor [vote](#). That legislation, which became law, provides that no private child-placement agency shall be required to participate in any placement of a child for foster care or adoption when the proposed placement would violate the agency’s written religious or moral convictions or policies.

Immigration:

At the Virginia Bar Association gubernatorial [debate](#), Northam said, “I do believe in locking up violent criminals, no matter what their status is. I also believe in allowing our local law enforcement agents to do their job and not interfere with what (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) is doing. ... Children that have grown up and gone to our schools in Virginia, I do believe should have access to our universities and colleges and have access to in-state tuition.”

Marriage:

In a Northam campaign [TV ad](#), a same-sex couple states, “He did one of the readings at our wedding. He supported marriage equality before it was popular to do so.” During his 2013 campaign for lieutenant governor, newspaper [accounts](#) cite Northam’s opposition to Virginia’s constitutional amendment that marriage is between one man and one woman: “He would support a repeal of the 2006 amendment banning same-sex marriage in Virginia.”

Poverty:

According to his [website](#), Northam wants to build the economy, especially in the poorer rural areas by “building a skilled workforce, encouraging entrepreneurship and startups and leveraging and growing our infrastructure.” He supports raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, according to the [Washington Post](#). According to a May 2017 interview with [The American Prospect](#), he said Virginia should expand Medicaid for working Virginians who have no health care.



Know the Positions of the Candidates for LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

“Human dignity is respected and the common good is fostered only if human rights are protected and basic responsibilities are met. Every human being has a right to life, the fundamental right that makes all other rights possible, and a right to access those things required for human decency – food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing, freedom of religion and family life.”

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Justin E. Fairfax
Democrat

Abortion:

Fairfax's [website](#) states, “As Vice-Chair of Planned Parenthood Metropolitan Washington Action Fund, Justin is passionate about ensuring that women have the freedom to make their own reproductive and healthcare decisions. As Lt. Governor of Virginia, Justin will protect a woman’s right to choose.”

Death Penalty:

No statements on Fairfax’s position on the death penalty were found.

Educational Choice:

No statements on Fairfax’s position on educational choice were found.



Jill H. Vogel
Republican

Abortion:

In a *Bearing Drift* [op-ed](#), Vogel wrote, “In the almost ten years that I have served in Virginia’s Senate, I have maintained a 100% pro-life voting record – each and every year and have been in the front lines of attacks for my pro-life positions.”

Death Penalty:

In 2016, Vogel voted twice in favor of death penalty legislation. She [voted](#) for [HB 815](#), to allow executions to continue through use of the electric chair when the commonwealth runs out of lethal injection drugs. She then [voted](#) for the [amendment](#) which allowed the commonwealth to purchase lethal injection drugs from compounding pharmacies whose identities are kept secret from the public.

Educational Choice:

According to her [website](#), “Vogel has supported school choice legislation, charter schools, and education savings accounts to give parents more control and choice over the education of their children.” During the 2012 General Assembly session, Vogel [voted](#) for [SB 131](#). That legislation established the Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits (EISTC) program, which provides a 65% state tax credit for donations that fund scholarships for income-eligible students to attend nonpublic K-12 schools.



Justin E. Fairfax

Democrat

Environmental Responsibility:

During the Senior Statesmen of Virginia [debate](#), Fairfax stated, “Climate change is an existential threat to the commonwealth of Virginia and also to the country.” He said Virginia should work with military and economic partners and the public sector to find ways to reduce carbon emissions. He said Virginia should use clean energy and renewable sources of energy, and called on bipartisan solutions “as we deal with this very critical threat.”

Freedom of Religion:

No statements on Fairfax’s position on freedom of religion were found.

Immigration:

During the Senior Statesmen of Virginia [debate](#), Fairfax said of local collaboration with federal immigration enforcement, “We need to make sure that we have law enforcement not be mandated to do certain things that actually distract from their mission of public safety.” He said it is important that policies do not “make our law enforcement less effective by giving mandates that have been placed on them and on local government.”

Marriage:

Fairfax’s [website](#) states, “Justin will continue the fight to ensure that marriage equality remains the law of the land.”

Poverty:

Fairfax’s [website](#) states that he favors raising the minimum wage: “Virginia workers deserve the right to earn a livable wage in order to support and create economic security for their families.” Fairfax also supports Medicaid expansion to accommodate working Virginians without health care.

Jill H. Vogel

Republican

Environmental Responsibility:

During the Senior Statesmen of Virginia [debate](#), Vogel stated, “For sure, climate change is real. We know what the science tells us.” Because of threats caused by sea-level rise, she advocates for partnering with the military. She said, “It is critical that we make this a priority and make certain that we are directing the resources that we can to the communities that need it most, to address changes that are going to be necessary for infrastructure and support those communities now before it is too late.”

Freedom of Religion:

On her [website](#), Vogel states, “I will always ... promote freedom by opposing all discrimination and protecting religious liberty.” During the 2017 General Assembly session, Vogel voted for [SB 1324](#) in a Senate floor [vote](#). That bill sought to prohibit state government discrimination against clergy or religious organizations for following the teaching that marriage is between a man and a woman. During the 2012 Virginia General Assembly session, in a Senate floor [vote](#), Vogel voted for [SB 349](#). That legislation, which became law, provides that no private child-placement agency shall be required to participate in any placement of a child for foster care or adoption when the proposed placement would violate the agency’s written religious or moral convictions or policies.

Immigration:

During the 2017 General Assembly session, Vogel [voted](#) for [HB 1468](#) and [voted](#) for [HB 2000](#). Both bills would have restricted the autonomy of local law enforcement as it relates to their actions regarding the treatment of undocumented immigrants. During the 2008 General Assembly session, Vogel introduced [SB 433](#), which would have deputized state and local police to serve in support of federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Marriage:

During the 2017 General Assembly session, Vogel [voted](#) to keep the [definition of marriage](#) as a union between one man and one woman in the Virginia Constitution.

Poverty:

During the 2014 General Assembly session, Vogel [voted](#) against a minimum wage [bill](#) that would have raised the wage to \$8.25 in 2014 and \$9.25 in 2015. *The Northern Virginia Daily* quoted her as saying she is “100 percent against” Medicaid expansion.



Know the Positions of the Candidates for ATTORNEY GENERAL

“Human dignity is respected and the common good is fostered only if human rights are protected and basic responsibilities are met. Every human being has a right to life, the fundamental right that makes all other rights possible, and a right to access those things required for human decency – food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing, freedom of religion and family life.”

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John D. Adams
Republican

Abortion:

Adams' [website](#) states, “I will never waver in my commitment to protect innocent life. ... The fact that abortion is now a constitutional right demonstrates the raw power of the Supreme Court. It also shows how important it is for Virginia to have an effective and principled lawyer to represent us before that Court. As your Attorney General, I will fight up to and at the Supreme Court to protect Virginians from further judicial overreach. In Virginia, I will fight to uphold strict standards for abortion clinics and ensure that all laws passed by the General Assembly, including those that protect the unborn, are defended in court when they come under attack.”

Death Penalty:

According to an [article](#) in *The Collegiate Times*, Adams told the College Republicans at Virginia Tech, “I support the death penalty. If you commit a felony and kill a victim, you deserve the death penalty.”

Educational Choice:

On his [website](#), Adams states, “Educated in public schools from kindergarten through law school, I understand the importance of a sound public education. I will fight to ensure that every student finds the same opportunities from our schools that I experienced. But, I also recognize the right and responsibility to educate our children lies foremost with parents – not politicians. Parents must be trusted to choose how best to educate their children.”



Mark R. Herring
Democrat

Abortion:

Herring's [website](#) states, “Attorney General Mark R. Herring ... has fought in court to defend a woman's access to comprehensive healthcare services including abortion and birth control. ... Herring helped defeat a 20-week abortion ban in the legislature with an official opinion that declared such a law would likely be struck down as unconstitutional, and as a state senator, he opposed legislation to restrict a woman's access to abortion.”

Death Penalty:

In 2016, Herring issued a [legal opinion](#) in support of amendments to [HB 815](#) that allowed the commonwealth to obtain execution drugs secretly from compounding pharmacies, thus helping to perpetuate the use of the death penalty in Virginia. In 2009, Herring [voted](#) for [HB 2358](#), which would have expanded use of the death penalty by redefining the “triggerman” rule.

Educational Choice:

During the 2012 General Assembly session, Herring [voted](#) against [SB 131](#). That legislation established the Education Improvement Scholarships Tax Credits (EISTC) program, which provides a 65% state tax credit for donations that fund scholarships for income-eligible students to attend nonpublic K-12 schools.



John D. Adams

Republican

Environmental Responsibility:

During the Young Lawyer’s Committee of the Virginia State Bar Association [debate](#), Adams said, “Climate is changing and the temperature is increasing. That’s a fact. I think it’s a fact that human activity on earth is contributing to that. ... The magnitude of the increases and the import of what’s going to happen as a result of that ... are very complex questions that are, in my opinion, best left to experts. ... Your legislative body has to make determinations about how to manage all the conflicting interests. What I will do as attorney general, while always fighting for a clean and safe environment, is ... advise the General Assembly when they need legal advice on the steps they want to take to correct problems. ... And I will defend (the Department of Environmental Quality) when they get sued.”

Freedom of Religion:

On his [website](#), Adams states, “When the federal government tried to squelch the religious liberty of nuns and small business owners, I stood up for the freedoms of all Americans in the Supreme Court. I represented pro bono clients in *Hobby Lobby* and *Little Sisters of the Poor*, and I’ll fight whenever our religious freedom is under attack.” At the Young Lawyer’s Committee of the Virginia State Bar Association [debate](#), Adams stated, “I will defend the religious liberty of all Virginians, regardless of their faith.” At the debate, Adams also criticized the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals decision against a Trump administration executive order restricting travel and refugee resettlement. He did not say whether it was a religious liberty issue but said, “I am deeply concerned about a case where we now have courts second-guessing the commander-in-chief on questions related to national security.”

Immigration:

An ABC 8 Richmond [story](#) reported that Adams’ communications director issued a statement about Herring’s defense of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program which stated: “Mark Herring issued an opinion contrary to Virginia state law and grossly exceed (sic) his authority as Attorney General, allowing thousands of illegal aliens to pay in-state tuition at our college and universities. Herring relied on DACA – itself an executive overreach – in issuing his opinion so it is no surprise that he would want to see that federal executive action continued.”

Marriage:

Adams’ [website](#) states, “My personal belief is that marriage is between one man and one woman. Under our Constitution, Virginians – and citizens of all states – have every right to define marriage under their state laws as they see fit. ... The Supreme Court’s 5-4 decision forcing the states to redefine marriage was not based on anything in the Constitution, and it denied American citizens of the very right to self-government our Founding Fathers fought for. As your Attorney General, I would never disrespect the will of Virginians by refusing to defend perfectly valid Virginia Constitutional amendments in court.”

Mark R. Herring

Democrat

Environmental Responsibility:

At the Young Lawyer’s Committee of the Virginia State Bar Association [debate](#), Herring stated, “I think President Trump made the wrong decision in pulling out of the Paris climate agreement. ... I think climate change is real. ... That’s why I supported the Clean Power Plan, because it offered a way that we could begin to address our energy needs in a way that minimized ... carbon emissions. ... I issued an opinion that said the Air Pollution Control Board in Virginia had the authority to go ahead and implement steps that we could take, even without being a part of the Paris climate agreement.”

Freedom of Religion:

On his [website](#), Herring calls the *Hobby Lobby* case “infamous” and says he “fought ... to protect a woman’s access to the full range of reproductive health care services, including contraception, without interference from her boss.” At the Young Lawyer’s Committee of the Virginia State Bar Association [debate](#), Herring stated, “As the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals said, (the executive order restricting travel and refugee resettlement) was dripping with religious discrimination. People came to America to escape religious persecution. ... A religious test on entry to the United States ... violates the very core of who we are as a country and who we are as a state. Virginia is the home of religious freedom.”

Immigration:

Herring sent a [letter](#) to the president of the United States urging the continuation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which refrains from deporting youths who were brought to the United States as children, have no criminal records, and either serve in the military, attend school or are employed. The letter said, in part, “We urge you to affirm America’s values and tradition as a nation of immigrants and make clear that you will not only continue DACA, but that you will defend it.”

Marriage:

Herring’s [website](#) states, “Just 12 days into his term, Attorney General Mark R. Herring took the historic step of joining the fight for marriage equality, winning at the district court and appeals court before the United States Supreme Court let the decision stand, bringing marriage equality to the Commonwealth within 10 months of his taking office. Attorney General Herring is the first state attorney general to successfully argue that his state’s ban on marriage for same-sex couples should be struck down as unconstitutional.”





Four Principles of Catholic Social Teaching*

The central and enduring themes of Catholic social teaching are organized under four principles that provide a moral framework for decisions in public life.

www.vacatholic.org

The Dignity of the Human Person

Human life is sacred. The dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. Direct attacks



on innocent persons are never morally acceptable. In our society, the gravest example is abortion. Euthanasia, assisted suicide, human cloning, in vitro fertilization

and the destruction of embryos for research are others. Protecting the dignity of life also includes overcoming poverty, ending use of the death penalty, and opposing racism, torture, unjust war, human trafficking and all activities that contribute to the “throwaway culture” identified by Pope Francis.

The Common Good

The common good is achieved when social conditions allow people to reach their fulfillment more fully and easily. It



upholds the fundamental right to life, which makes all other rights possible. It asserts the right to food, shelter, education, employment, health care, housing, freedom

of religion and conscience, and family life. It requires an economy that serves people, not the other way around. It calls on employers to uphold the dignity and rights of workers by offering productive work, decent and just wages, adequate security in their old age, the choice of whether to organize and join unions and the opportunity for legal status for immigrant workers. Workers should contribute a fair day’s work for a fair day’s pay, treat employers and co-workers with respect and contribute to the common good. This principle requires we protect and care for all of God’s creation, especially the most vulnerable among us, and the earth, our common home.

Subsidiarity

The human person is social. The family is the fundamental building block of society, based on marriage between a man



and a woman, a sanctuary for creation and nurturing of children. Policies and programs should defend, strengthen and respect this foundational unit and uphold parents’

rights and responsibilities to care for and educate their children. Further, every person and association has a right and duty to actively shape society and promote the well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable. Subsidiarity means that society’s larger institutions should not overwhelm or interfere with smaller or local ones. These larger institutions are obliged, however, to protect human dignity and meet human needs when smaller institutions cannot adequately do so.

Solidarity

We are one human family, despite our national, racial, ethnic, economic and ideological differences, called to love our neighbor as ourselves. We must work to



eradicate poverty, disease and racism; and welcome immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers who are seeking employment, safety, education and

a better life for their families. Solidarity requires preferential concern for the poor. A basic moral test of any society is how it treats those who are most vulnerable. This preferential option for the poor and vulnerable includes all who are marginalized – unborn children, persons with disabilities, the elderly and terminally ill, victims of injustice and oppression and immigrants.

*Adapted from *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, Nos. 44-56, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2015.



Cuatro Principios de la Doctrina Social *

Los temas centrales y perdurables de la doctrina social católica se organizan bajo cuatro principios que proporcionan un marco moral para tomar decisiones en la vida pública.

www.vacatholic.org

La dignidad de la persona

La vida de una persona es sagrada. La dignidad de la persona es lo fundamental para haber una visión moral para la sociedad.



Los ataques directos hacia personas que son inocentes nunca son moralmente aceptables. En nuestra sociedad, el ejemplo más grave es el aborto. Eutanasia, suicidio asistido, clonación,

fertilización in vitro y la destrucción de embriones para la investigación son otros. Protección de la dignidad de la vida también incluye superar la pobreza, acabar con el uso de la pena de muerte y oponerse al racismo, la tortura, la guerra injusta, el tráfico de seres humanos y todas las actividades que contribuyen a la “cultura desechable” identificada por el Papa Francisco.

El bien común

El bien común se alcanza cuando las condiciones sociales permiten que las personas logren su realización personal



plenamente y fácilmente. El bien común defiende el derecho fundamental a la vida, que hace posible todos los otros derechos. Este afirma el derecho a alimentos, vivienda,

educación, empleo, salud, libertad de religión y conciencia, y vida familiar. Este requiere una economía que atiende a personas, no al revés. Pide a los empleadores a respetar la dignidad y los derechos de los trabajadores ofreciendo trabajo productivo, salarios justos, seguridad adecuada en la edad avanzada, la opción de poder organizar y unirse a los sindicatos y la oportunidad para obtener el estatus legal para los trabajadores inmigrantes. Los trabajadores deben contribuir con un día de trabajo para la paga de un día justo, tratando a los empleadores y compañeros de trabajo con respeto y contribuir al bien común. Este principio requiere de proteger y cuidar toda la creación de Dios, especialmente a los más vulnerables entre nosotros y la tierra cual es nuestra casa que compartimos.

Subsidiariedad

La persona humana es sociable. La familia es el pilar fundamental de la sociedad, basada en el matrimonio entre



un hombre y una mujer, es un santuario para la creación y la crianza de los niños. Las políticas y los programas deben defender, fortalecer y respetar esta unidad

fundamental y defender los derechos y responsabilidades de los padres de cuidar y educar a sus hijos. Además, cada persona y asociación, en forma activa, tiene un derecho y un deber de formar la sociedad y promover el bienestar de todos, especialmente a los pobres y vulnerables. Subsidiariedad significa que grandes instituciones de la sociedad no deben abrumar o interferir con las instituciones más pequeñas o locales. Estas grandes instituciones están obligadas, sin embargo, a proteger la dignidad humana y satisfacer las necesidades humanas, cuando las instituciones más pequeñas no pueden hacerlo adecuadamente.

Solidaridad

Somos una familia humana, a pesar de nuestras diferencias



nacionales, raciales, étnicas, económicas e ideológicas, llamados a amar a nuestro prójimo como a nosotros mismos. Debemos trabajar para erradicar la pobreza, la enfermedad y el

racismo; y dar la bienvenida a los inmigrantes, refugiados y solicitantes de asilo que están buscando empleo, seguridad, educación y una vida mejor para sus familias. Solidaridad requiere preocupación preferencial a los pobres. Una prueba moral básica de cualquier sociedad es de cómo se trata a aquellos que son más vulnerables. Esta opción preferencial a los pobres y vulnerables incluye todos los que están marginados, niños no nacidos, las personas con discapacidad, ancianas, desahuciadas, víctimas de injusticia y opresión; y los inmigrantes.