



# **Parents, Politics and Private Schools**

Archdiocese of San Francisco

# Seven Social Sins

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- **Politics without principle**
- **Wealth without work**
- **Commerce without morality**
- **Pleasure without conscience**
- **Education without character**
- **Science without humanity**
- **Worship without sacrifice**

# **“Public Debate”** is always occurring

<b>Families</b>	<b>Friends</b>	<b>Colleagues</b>	<b>Coworkers</b>	<b>Associates</b>
<b>Letters Internet</b>	<b>Bias of stories</b>	<b>Talk shows</b>	<b>Op-Ed Pieces</b>	<b>Editorials Advertisements</b>
<b>District Meetings</b>	<b>Public Speeches</b>	<b>Precinct Meeting</b>	<b>Professional Journals</b>	<b>Academic Discussions</b>
<b>Federal Congress</b>	<b>State Legislature</b>	<b>County Council</b>	<b>City Council</b>	<b>Town Meeting</b>

# Legislature



Rules

Budget

**Moral dimensions of the questions**

# Influence



Votes

Money

Relationships

Principle/Morality

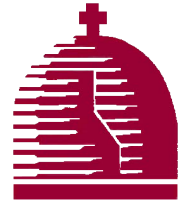
# The Legislative Cycle

<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>			
<b>Session</b>	<b>Recess</b>				<b>In Session</b>						<b>Recess</b>			
							<b>Background On Issues</b>							
			<b>Time to get Acquainted</b>											

Invite elected officials to...

- Open house                      back-to-school nights                      student programs
- Graduations                      forum presentations                      honors ceremonies
- Get to know during “non issue” times

# The California Experience



**Bishops 30**  
**Diocesan Priests 2,119**  
**Religious Priests 1,509**  
**Parishes 1,070**  
**Catholic Hospitals 44 (4,775,027)**  
**Health Care Centers 33 (258,010)**  
**Specialized Homes 95 (185,592)**  
**Residential Child Care (17,314)**  
**Social Services Centers 181**  
**(2,096,773)**

**Colleges/Universities 13 (43,844)**  
**High Schools 114 (72,720)**  
**Elementary Schools 7588 (172,690)**  
**Religious Education HS 85,115**  
**Rel. Ed. Elementary 478,721**  
**TOTAL CATHOLICS**  
**10,496,697**  
**TOTAL POPULATION**  
**35,217,256**

# Church and Politics

“A just society must be the achievement of politics, not of the church. Yet the promotion of justice through efforts to bring about openness of mind and will to the demands of the common good is something which concerns the church deeply.”

“God is Love”

## **TRADITION**

**MORAL VISION**

**LIVED VISION**

**SCRIPTURAL BASIS**

## **EXPERIENCE**

**PERSONAL FAITH**

**COMMUNAL**

## **INSTITUTION**

**PARISHES**

**SCHOOLS**

**ORGANIZATION**

**CHARITIES**

**HOSPITALS**

## **CONSTITUENCY**

**UNIQUE**

# Legislative Involvement

1. **Educate** yourself on issues by reading, attending meetings, getting speakers out to your groups.
2. **Talk** with your neighbors, friends and family. Be inclusive, not exclusive. Be collaborative, not competitive.
3. **Ask** legislative candidates their position on issues. Write and/or call them.
4. **Attend** community meetings and candidate forums. Ask questions.
5. **Organize** a phone tree for political action.
6. **Pray** that the common good may be achieved.

# What Works Locally

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- **Personal District Visits**
  - Build a relationship
- **Letter Writing**
  - By a factor of 100
- **FAX**
  - By a factor of 10
- **E-mail**
  - If you can't call



# **Achievement occurs when you have...**

- Money \***
- Grassroots action**
- Lobbying expertise**

**\*“High moral purpose” can trump money.**

# Recruiting Volunteer and Members

- Basic Recruiting Principles

## *A. Appeal to People's Self-Interest*

1. *Personal*
2. *Professional*
3. *Power*
4. *Moral*
5. *Negative Forms of Self-Interest*

## *B. Fire a Shot Over the Water*

## *C. Recruit to an Activity, NOT a Business Meeting*

## *D. Have an Ongoing Entry-Level Program for New People*

## *E. Offer Child Care*

- Your Image as a Recruiter
- Six Steps Toward Successful Membership Recruitment

1. *Be Prepared*
2. *Legitimize Yourself*
3. *Listen*
4. *Agitate*
5. *Get a Commitment*
6. *Follow Up*

- Tips on Keeping Volunteers
- Practice Makes Perfect

The advocacy priorities are derived from Catholic values and social teaching, including our convictions that:

- Every person is the subject of human dignity.
- Public Policy must serve the common good.
- The needs of the poor have a moral priority.
- There must be responsible stewardship of resources.
- Parents are the primary educators of their children.
- Private schools “Freedom to Serve” should be respected.
- All students have equitable access to programs & services.
- Public policy should facilitate parental choice in education.

## Issues in California:

- Accountability
  - Grades, accreditation, comparisons, UC admissions, only state-recognized accreditation, high school graduation, testing
- Equity of Access
  - NCLB, IDEA, Summer school
- Teacher Credentials
- Mandatory Preschool/Kindergarten
- Tax Credits in Educaiton
- Single District Voucher Program
- Revisit the Textbook laws



# Organizational Engagement of Political Process

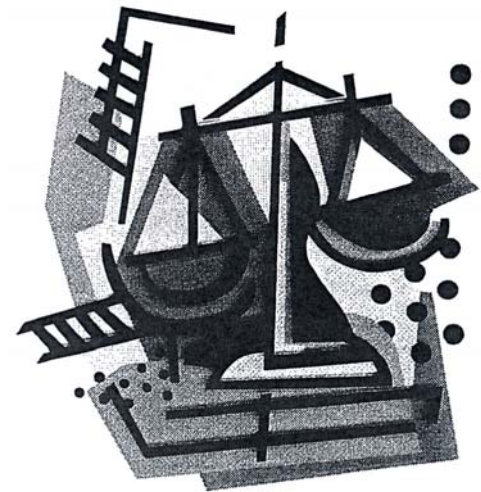
Our Need  
To Develop and Maintain

1. Consensus
2. Relationships
3. Organization

# Organizational Engagement of Political Process

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- Churches & 501 (c) 3 Groups
  - Focused Consistent Moral Vision
  - Issues
  - Relationships
  - Personal Help
  - Issue Clarification
  - Quality Analysis and Perspective
  - “Faith Connection”
  - Educated Voters
  - Mutual Societal Benefit





# Practical activities we can do as a Church

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1. Voting
2. Use parish bulletins to publish materials approved by the CCC
3. Organizing voter registration campaigns
4. Organizing committees for political education and involvement
5. Develop legislative networks to review legislative activity and advocate for the Church's public policy agenda
6. Conduct issue and/or candidate forums
7. Distribute questionnaires/voting records of all candidates

“There are times when the burden of need and our own limitations might tempt us to become discouraged. But precisely then we are helped by the knowledge that in the end we are only instruments in the Lord’s hands; and this knowledge frees us from the presumption of thinking that we alone are personally responsible for building a better world.”

“God is Love”

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.  
Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.  
It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us.  
We ask ourselves who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and  
fabulous?  
Actually, who are you not to be?  
You are a child of God.  
Your playing small doesn't serve the world.  
There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people  
won't feel insecure around you.  
We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.  
It's not just in some of us, it's in everyone.  
And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give others  
permission to do the same.  
As we are liberated from our own fear,  
our presence automatically liberates others.

Nelson Mandela, Inaugural Speech 1994