

MASSACHUSETTS CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

60 School Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108 (617) 523-4860

INFORMATION AND NEWS RELEASE FOR RELEASE ON: OCTOBER 23, 1992

THE FOUR ROMAN CATHOLIC RESIDENTIAL BISHOPS OF MASSACHUSETTS: BERNARD CARDINAL LAW, ARCHBISHOP OF BOSTON; MOST REVEREND TIMOTHY HARRINGTON, BISHOP OF WORCESTER; MOST REVEREND JOHN MARSHALL, BISHOP OF SPRINGFIELD; AND MOST REVEREND SEAN O'MALLEY, BISHOP OF FALL RIVER HAVE ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT REGARDING THE NOVEMBER 3, 1992 GENERAL ELECTION. THE MESSAGE WAS ISSUED THROUGH THE MASSACHUSETTS CATHOLIC CONFERENCE. SIMILAR STATEMENTS WERE ISSUED FOR PREVIOUS GENERAL ELECTIONS OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

STATEMENT ON POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY

On November 3rd, citizens of the United States go to the polls to choose our national and state leaders. Freedom, justice and peace in a democratic society depend on the active participation of its citizens. Every citizen of voting age has a moral obligation to exercise that franchise in an informed and responsible way.

Choosing leaders should involve more than party loyalty or personal preference. Informed voting means knowing the candidates, the positions they espouse and the proposals they offer for building a society in which life is affirmed, in which freedom is protected, and in which justice, based on the equal dignity of every human being, is pursued.

Citizens must examine the candidates and the issues not from a selfish personal perspective but from a commitment to the good of every person, the common good of city, state and nation and the ultimate good of all humankind. Such an outlook says "no" to abortion, to euthanasia, to violence, to injustice and to those policies that are contrary to sound family life. Such an outlook says "yes" to life, from conception to natural death, to educational choices and reform, to accessible health care, especially for the poor, and to a responsible national economy. With the kind of leadership which builds a nation of sound character, good moral life and just practices, our country will then be able to make its proper contribution to world peace and help build a better world for the generations to come.

A commitment to truth is incumbent on the candidates, on the media and on all who have the task of bringing the issues to the people. On the part of the voting public, it is our duty to vote on November 3rd in an informed way. It is our personal responsibility to make our choices based on an appropriate vision of the person and society.

+ BERNARD CARDINAL LAW ARCHBISHOP OF BOSTON	+ MOST REVEREND JOHN MARSHALL BISHOP OF SPRINGFIELD
+ MOST REVEREND TIMOTHY HARRINGTON BISHOP OF WORCESTER	+ MOST REVEREND SEAN O'MALLEY BISHOP OF FALL RIVER

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