



This webinar is produced by



to help teachers and parents equip their students with the tools they need to advocate for life and human dignity.

LESSONS IN ADVOCACY WORKSHEET

- 1) The principles of Catholic Social teaching help us inform our decisions in the political process and work toward the common good. List the three primary principles of Catholic Social Teaching?
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
- 2) One of the best ways to have your voice heard is to meet the “People” in the legislative process—your legislators. With your parent’s permission, [click this link](#) to go to the Minnesota Legislature website and enter your address to find your district and who represents you. Then, write the names of your legislators in the space below. Finally, list three ways you could meet your legislators.

District # _____

Representative _____

Senator _____

Ways you could meet with your legislators:

1)

2)

3)

- 3) When you meet your legislators, it's helpful to remember these "P's" of political advocacy. Which of the following should you be when meeting with your legislators? (Circle all that apply)

A) Poised

D) Principled

B) Personal

E) Passionate

C) Peevish

F) Passive

- 4) Before an idea becomes a law, it must go through Minnesota's legislature. You play an important role in the legislative process and can have your voice heard at each step. What is the correct order of the legislative process? Number the steps below, with 1 being first and 4 as last.

_____ The bill goes to the Governor to be signed into law

_____ An idea is turned into a bill by a legislator.

_____ The bill is voted on by the House and Senate

_____ The bill is heard in one or more committees.

What's Next?

Remember, we need to **Plan** our advocacy. This is the last "P" in politics.

We each have a role to play in building Christ's Kingdom—what do you plan to do moving forward?

- 1) With your parent's permission, go to MNCatholic.org/actioncenter and enter your address to find out who represents you. After you know who represents you, reach out to your legislators to invite them to a parish get-together, and remember to be poised, personal, principled, and passionate when you meet them!
- 2) If you can't meet with your legislator in person, write them a letter! The mailing address for both of your legislators can also be found at MNCatholic.org/actioncenter. With your parent's permission, click on the link and then click on the "directory" tab to find out who represents you. When you write them, let them know what you are passionate about, that you are a resource to them, and that you will pray for them.

- 3) Submit a “Letter to the Editor” to your local newspaper regarding an issue you are passionate about. A “Letter to the Editor” is about 250 words long and provides a short and strong argument for a certain viewpoint. [Click this link](#) to view examples of “Letters to the Editors” in *The Catholic Spirit*.
- 4) If you want to go all-out, invite your legislators to coffee or soda with your friends! This is a great way to really get to know them, and you’ll have the chance to talk to them about their lives as legislators too. Again, make sure to ask your parents!

Helpful Resources

On your journey of faithful citizenship, these resources will help you along the way.

1. Download or order a copy of [Minnesota, Our Common Home](#) including a *study guide version* and an *Ecological Examen* to learn more about integral ecology. Inspired by Pope Francis’ encyclical, *Laudato si’*, this document helps us to be faithful stewards of God’s creation and understand that we live in an ecosystem of relationships with one another and God.
2. Read the USSCB’s “[Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](#)” to learn more about our call to faithful advocacy in the public arena.
3. With your parent’s permission, listen to the [Bridge Builder Podcast](#) to hear from experts on important topics in the public arena and learn how you can build bridges in the political process for the common good.
4. The [Minnesota State Legislature Website](#) is a top-notch resource for all things having to do with Minnesota’s legislative process. Here you can find information on pending legislation, upcoming committee meetings, who represents you in the legislature, and more.

Final Notes

Advocacy isn't a one-time experience—it's a form of evangelization and a journey that lasts a lifetime. It will lead you to great friendships, encounter with the Lord, and will help others reach Heaven.

The Minnesota Catholic Conference is here to serve as a resource to you. As you continue on the path of missionary discipleship, please email our Policy and Outreach Coordinator, Jack Lawlis, with any questions at JLawlis@MNCatholic.org.