

A Pledge for Catholics to Support the Common Good
Vote Out Poverty, Vote Out War—
Vote In The Common Good!



Catholics in Alliance
FOR THE COMMON GOOD

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In this election year and in the years to come, we have the opportunity to change our country by putting the common good on the national agenda and making sure all candidates and elected officials have specific plans for reducing poverty and ending the Iraq war. What can you do? Take this pledge as a Catholic and a citizen to raise these issues in local and national debates. Pledge to promote the common good!

VOTE OUT POVERTY:

- 37 million Americans live below the poverty line in the world's richest country. Half the world — nearly three billion people — live on less than two dollars a day. These are moral scandals that violate human life and dignity. Poverty is linked to many affronts to human life, including abortion and war. We are called to put our faith into action and care for the poor and most vulnerable.
- What can you do? Pledge to make a commitment to support policies that reduce poverty and promote economic justice. Insist that political candidates and public officials share specific plans for cutting poverty in half over the next ten years.

VOTE OUT THE WAR:

- The Iraq war has lasted more than four years and the number of casualties now exceeds 3800 American soldiers and hundreds of thousands of Iraqis. War disproportionately affects the poor in society and drains needed resources from vital social programs. Pope John Paul II insisted that “war is always a defeat for humanity.” Pope Benedict XVI believes that it is “right to resist war and its threats of destruction.” The U.S. bishops have called for a “responsible withdrawal” of troops.

- What can you do? Catholics have a moral obligation to stand for peace, justice and the common good. Insist that political candidates and public officials share specific plans for a responsible withdrawal of troops from Iraq.

VOTE IN THE COMMON GOOD:

- Building a culture of the common good requires us to balance our own self-interest with a commitment to greater common interest as well. It is the understanding that we are a community together, and that when one person suffers, we all suffer. The common good is rooted in the Catholic faith tradition, as we are called to “love our neighbors as ourselves”. A vision of a government and ‘commonwealth’ that stands for the interests and needs of all of its people, not just the few, is also embedded in our nation’s founding documents.
- **What can you do? Consider the fullness of Catholic Social Teaching when voting for candidates. Carefully consider what position candidates take on a full range of issues, including policies that respect all stages of life, provide every American with access to health care, end the war in Iraq, and support the needs of the many over the few.**

Tell your friends, family, congregations and community members to go to www.catholicsinalliance.org to sign the pledge.

**VOTE OUT POVERTY, VOTE OUT WAR and
VOTE IN THE COMMON GOOD!**

This Pledge is sponsored by:

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For more information about ending the war, visit: www.paxchristiusa.org
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Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good is an independent, nonpartisan, lay Catholic organization that promotes awareness of Catholic social teaching. Catholics in Alliance is not affiliated with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.