

Christian commitment in the mainstream of opinions



PRAY

O God, amongst the population of Israel you sought for kings by your heart. We, too, seek for politicians who do not serve their own interest but are oriented towards you. The political landscape is marked by political camps and enmity. Let us dedicate ourselves to finding committed and vivid Christians in all parties and support them. And give us the courage to take political action without betraying our beliefs. Show us which are the parties you would like to use us in so as to push good things forward. Amen.



CONTEMPLATE

One person reads the Bible passage aloud.
Short silence.

Exchange: *What particularly appealed to you?*



STUDY

1. Read DOCAT text sentence-for-sentence. Then one person reads the text aloud in full.
2. Three minutes of silence.
3. Each person reads a word or phrase aloud (without comment) that he or she has noticed.
4. Explain briefly in the next round why you have chosen the sentence (e.g. memories, questions, etc.).



DISCUSS

Also discuss your own questions on this topic!

Treasure Book: *Take five minutes to write down what you don't want to forget.*



CHALLENGE

Our **CHALLENGES** are just suggestions you can make in addition to your study guide meetings. You can also replace them with stronger, more fitting, more original or better ones. Just let us know at feedback@youcat.org.

#DOCATChallenge: *Share your experience on Facebook or Instagram.*



Jer 29:7

Promote the welfare of the city to which I have exiled you; pray for it to the LORD, for upon its welfare depends your own.

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Can I become active in a political party even if its positions do not always agree with those of Christian doctrine?

Yes. As Catholics we have the mission of transforming society into a "civilization of love". When we become active in political parties, we take in hand the means with which to prove our solidarity with the weak. We serve the common good by emphasizing the primacy of the human person in party work and by being mindful of subsidiary societal structures. Political parties devise platforms for themselves, and they need majorities in order to implement them. Since a Christian platform is often connected with inconvenient positions, there will scarcely be any parties in which Christian doctrine is reflected 100 percent. That makes it all the more important for Catholics to collaborate responsibly so as to strengthen the right positions and make them capable of winning a majority. The prerequisite for responsible involvement is a fundamental recognition by the party of inviolable human dignity, of human rights, personhood, and the defense of innocent human life at all stages of its development and in all conditions of dependence, of marriage as a union of a man and a woman, and also of the Church's legal status in our society, as is codified in various national constitutions. Catholic Christians have no place in political parties in which violence against human life or dignity is glorified or approved or that have platforms that include social hatred, demagoguery, racism, or class warfare.

1. Why must any Christian not keep away from the political life?
2. At which point did Jesus act „politically“?
3. What political conceptions must a Christian never agree with?
4. What specific actions can you take if there are unlawful or sinful opinions in parties you are connected to or in governments you are affected by?

Next week pray daily for the decisions of politicians in your country. Ask Our Lady of Fatima for her intercession.

Do you take on this challenge?

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DOCAT Study guide



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