

Instructions: Please fill in front and back of this sheet and tear off and fold as indicated.

Deadline for mailing is January 28, 1977.

Please check your position for or against on each of the following items.

1. That the local Church should be involved in the selection of bishops and pastors.

for _____ against _____

2. That the National Conference of Catholic Bishops assign an appropriate committee to study the possibility of changing the present discipline of the Church to allow priests to exercise the right to marry and remain in or resume the active priesthood. That the Church and Church authorities recognize the right of those who have been laicized from the priesthood to be fully accepted as lay Catholics in good standing.

for _____ against _____

3. That the National Conference of Catholic Bishops offer leadership in justice to the universal Church by providing a process which facilitates the formation of a more fully developed position on the ordination of women to sacred orders. A planned process and time line sharing this interpretive study should be presented to the Catholic community by November, 1977.

for _____ against _____

4. That the right of parents to discern the readiness of their children for the first celebration of the sacraments be explicitly protected and promoted in the forthcoming National Catechetical Directory.

for _____ against _____

5. That the diocesan Church affirm the value and continue to support philosophically and financially Catholic schools where needed and desired, especially where the local community is too poor to support such schools.

for _____ against _____

6. That there be launched immediately a strong campaign to bring about federal and state government recognition of and respect for the parents' right of choice in the education of their children through a just distribution of taxes for the establishment and maintenance of non-public schools. This should be brought about even if it requires a constitutional amendment.

for _____ against _____

7. That the American bishops use their pastoral leadership to affirm more clearly the right and responsibility of married people to form their own

consciences and to discern what is morally appropriate within the context of their marriage in view of historical Church teaching including Humanae Vitae and contemporary theological reflection, biological and social scientific research; and those factors influencing the spiritual and emotional quality of their marital and family lives. Also, each diocese should have established effective means of making natural family planning training available to all couples, including non-Catholics.

for _____ against _____

8. That the National Conference of Catholic Bishops urge parishes to become more aware of neighborhood concerns and issues that affect the lives of parishioners and express these concerns and issues in weekly liturgies and prayer.

for _____ against _____

9. That the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the United States Catholic Conference continue to examine the moral dimensions of the policies of our government with particular attention to the effects of multinational corporations with large investments in Third World countries. The results of these examinations, and the statements and teaching of the bishops on these subjects should be better publicized than in the past.

for _____ against _____

10. That the Bishops' national commitment to economic and social justice and the elimination of poverty and racism as an effective means of reducing crime reemphasize the necessity of abolishing capital punishment.

for _____ against _____

11. That the Bishop's national commitment to economic and social justice and the elimination of poverty and racism as an effective means of reducing crime include citizen involvement to improve all aspects of the criminal justice system and the development of alternatives to prisons.

for _____ against _____

12. That each parish acknowledge the evil of racism in American life and form a discussion/action unit to make its parishioners more aware of their own roots and of traditions and the customs of other people.

for _____ against _____

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