

## VADEMECUM FOR ELECTORS IN NIGERIA

### JDPC Onitsha Trains the Presbyterium on Duties of the Church on Active Citizenship

This is a step that calls for proactive intervention in the work we do. The training builds the capacity of the Priests especially on making the right choice during election; to stop agonizing and starting organizing. This is an update of the Social Teachings of the Catholic Church and the teaching of the 1979 CBCN, which serves as a guide to sign off things we get wrong and sign on what can be done in a most organized way to get good things done the proper way.

JDPC Onitsha has the commitment with the approval of the Archbishop, Most Rev. Valerian Okeke to teach this in all the episcopal regions. So far, Priests in 3 regions including Aguleri, Onitsha and Nnobi have been trained.

The training also bring to the fore front some key issues Christians should keep in mind in exercising their franchise, which include:

- i) We should be aware of a set of values that are at the foundation of life itself. In a well-organized setting, no law may validly support such actions such as abortion, medical experimentation with embryonic stem cells or artificial reproductive technologies e.g. In Vitro Fertilization (IVF), same sex marriage, incest etc.
- ii) Unequal religious privileges and absence of freedom of religion.
- iii) Peace and security.
- iv) Education.
- v) Corruption.
- vi) Betrayal of social contract.

### **On Responsive Civic Activities:**

- i) We should be actively involved in civic and political activities.
- ii) Acquire PVC to be able to vote in an election.
- iii) Vote for candidates who are God fearing, accountable and have the zeal to provide common good for the benefit of all.
- iv) Choose candidates who are courageous in defending the truth and justice for all; who are completely honest in fulfilling public and private responsibilities.
- v) Vote according to well-informed conscience without compromising your values. Do allow yourself to be manipulated or induced.
- vi) Be responsive and responsible in the way critical information is disseminated especially on social media.
- vii) Pay serious attention to political debates to enable you justify your stand.
- viii) Do not discuss sectional politics in the mix of people with different political interest. This may cause group violence.



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