



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 PROGRAM GUIDE

10:00 a.m. Introduction & Greetings

The MCC staff will provide an overview of the program, and highlight some helpful tips and resources for the students as they participate.

10:10 a.m. Pray and Talk with Bishop Andrew Cozzens

Bishop Andrew Cozzens, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul & Minneapolis, will lead the students in prayer and speak to the important need for young Catholic advocacy in the political process.

10:20 a.m. Principles: An Overview of Catholic Social Teaching

What is Catholic Social Teaching? How do the principles of the dignity of the human person, solidarity, and subsidiarity help inform our political decisions? This section will provide an overview of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and the important role they play in helping us to inform our consciences.

10:35 a.m. People: Civic Friendship and our Role in Advocacy

What's our role in the political process? How do you meet with your legislator, and even become their friend? What must you remember to be an effective advocate? Students will learn about the important role they play in the political process and will learn how to best engage in advocacy.

10:45 a.m. Policy: Issues of Life and the Dignity of the Human Person

How do I support policies that further the common good, and helps others achieve Heaven? Students will learn how to support policies that uphold the dignity of the human person, and oppose those that do not.

10:50 a.m. Procedure: Minnesota's Legislative Process

How does an idea become a law? Where are citizens involved in this process? Students will receive an overview of the Minnesota state legislature and will learn where they can become involved.

11:00 a.m. The Life of a Catholic Legislator

Students will hear from a Minnesota State Representative about his or her life as a Catholic legislator, the role that faithful citizens play in the political process, and how his or her own Catholic faith influences his or her decisions in the political process.

11:10 a.m. Q & A with the Legislator

Students will have the opportunity to ask the Minnesota state legislator questions. MCC staff will moderate the Q & A.

11:25 a.m. Final Words and Next Steps

What do we do now? Students will be provided with concrete action steps to help them fulfill their mission of faithful advocacy.

Moving Forward: Be Formed

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, information regarding who represents you, and more.

Moving Forward: Go Forth

1. With your parent's permission, go to MNCatholic.org/actioncenter and enter your address to find out who represents you.
2. After you know who represents you, reach out to your legislators and introduce yourself. Get to know them and tell them about an issue you care about.
3. When you meet your legislator, remember to be **poised, personal, principled, and passionate**.

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.