



U.S. elections 2008: Loving our neighbor in a shrinking world

As the 2008 presidential and congressional elections approach, people across the United States hunger for peace, security and economic prosperity. While [Maryknoll](#) is headquartered in the U.S., our missionaries, in 40 countries see in the people we serve the same desire for peace, security, economic prosperity and human dignity that Americans long for. And they daily witness how that desire progresses or is frustrated by the decisions of U.S. elected officials.

Has it ever been clearer that this world is becoming smaller and smaller? Globalization of communications, economics, culture and politics has made it so. As the U.S. Roman Catholic bishops stated on the eve of the past U.S. presidential elections, the Great Commandment, “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Luke 10:27) has global dimensions in a shrinking world” ([Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility](#), U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2003).

Maryknoll leadership, through its [Office for Global Concerns](#), invites you, our friends, supporters, benefactors, affiliates and members, to work with us to make the global impact of U.S. political decisions apparent for all voters as they head to the polls. Join us in a yearlong process to inform our parishes, families, friends and neighbors. Check [our 2008 elections website](#) for insightful, nonpartisan materials, upcoming forums and suggestions for mutual engagement.

Let us challenge presidential and congressional candidates to make explicit their commitment to the global common good. Let us scrutinize the candidates’ policy proposals through the lens of those who, both in the U.S. and overseas, are affected by poverty, war, human rights violations, trade policies and ecological destruction. Let us offer the experience of overseas mission and the light of Roman Catholic social teaching to help voters seek in platforms, speeches and policy proposals those values that matter most for the enhancement of life in our shrinking world.

We, the Maryknoll leadership, urge Americans to exercise the right to vote and by so doing, help our country advance the common worldwide desire for peace, genuine security and human dignity. Let us make these elections a positive contribution to the better world we all believe is possible.

*Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers
Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic
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