

TAKE THE 'CIVILIZE IT' PLEDGE

The escalating incivility of our country's political discourse has nearly paralyzed our government, while attacks on life and dignity, injustice, violence and a throwaway culture persist, the bishops of Washington state noted in a pastoral statement issued earlier this year.

"We must reverse these trends and heal our political divisions," the bishops wrote. "The human suffering we witness at home and abroad urges us not to delay in our response. We must learn again how to work with people who hold different political positions and keep the pressing priorities paramount. We cannot let disagreements derail our efforts on the common good."

As we approach the 2020 election, Washington's bishops are inviting Catholics to join the U.S. bishops' Civilize It campaign (civilizeit.org) by taking the following pledge.

CIVILIZE IT
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DIGNITY BEYOND THE DEBATE



I PLEDGE:

1. CIVILITY

To recognize the human dignity of those with whom I disagree, treat others with respect, and rise above attacks when directed at me.

2. CLARITY

To root my political viewpoints in the Gospel and a well-formed conscience, which involves prayer, conversation, study and listening. I will stand up for my convictions and speak out when I witness language that disparages others' dignity, while also listening and seeking to understand others' experiences.

3. COMPASSION

To encounter others with a tone and posture which affirms that I honor the dignity of others and invites others to do the same. I will presume others' best intentions and listen to their stories with empathy. I will strive to understand before seeking to be understood.

