

Catholic Bill of Rights and Responsibilities (rev. 12/15/10)

This is a foundational document of the American Catholic Council and will be a central element of the agenda at the national gathering of the ACC in June of 2011. The Planning Committee has been developing this document over the last two years and is pleased to share this latest revision, reflecting much input from the grassroots during some 50 local/regional listening sessions to date.

1. **Primacy of Conscience.** Every Catholic has the right and responsibility to develop an informed conscience and to act in accord with it.
 2. **Community.** Every Catholic has the right and responsibility to participate in a faith community and the right to responsible pastoral care.
 3. **Universal Ministry.** Every Catholic has the right and responsibility to proclaim the Gospel and to respond to the community's call to ministerial leadership.
 4. **Freedom of Expression.** Every Catholic has the right to freedom of expression and the freedom to dissent.
 5. **Sacraments.** Every Catholic has the right and responsibility to participate in the fullness of the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church.
 6. **Reputation.** Every Catholic has the right to a good name and to due process.
 7. **Governance.** Every Catholic and every Catholic community have the right to a voice in the selection of leaders and in the manner in which governance and decision making are exercised.
 8. **Participation.** Every Catholic has the right and responsibility to share in the interpretation of the Gospel and Church tradition.
 9. **Councils.** Every Catholic has the right to summon and speak in assemblies where diverse voices can be heard.
 10. **Guarantee of rights.** Church leaders shall respect the rights and responsibilities of the baptized and their faith communities.
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