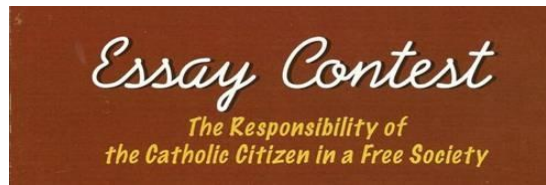


FREEHOLD KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #1672



Third place: Vincent Manning

In today's world the responsibilities of a Catholic citizen are endless. There are many bad goings on in the world and it is a Catholic's job to stop them. We must protect whatever we believe in and stop the forces that try to take those things away from us. There will always be injustices in the world but we must find ways to suppress them or even stop them. For example, there will always be poor people but we can help the problem by giving them money. Aside from Civil duties there are also a Catholic's moral duties. Some examples of these could be prayer, going to Mass on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation, and living like Jesus did. In our Catholic faith we have many responsibilities that are moral and civil.

We have many moral responsibilities as a Catholic. One of them is prayer. As a Catholic, speaking to God is very important. Especially if you are growing up and there are hard times in your life. Speaking to God allows us to solve our problems using our faith. Another moral responsibility is going to Church. A Catholic must go to Church every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation with the exception of sickness or injury. It is important for us to go to Church because we learn our faith, hear our faith, and learn how to live our faith. We also receive grace through the Eucharist. Another moral responsibility is going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Confession. Catholics are urged to go at least once a month and obliged to go at least once a year. Confession is important because through the priest we confess our sins and repent. We tell God that we will try to do better and not sin again. We must do this to have a clean soul and to be happy. Another moral responsibility would be giving to the poor, charities, and feeding the hungry. We must do this because Jesus did this and He wants us to do it too. We must also do it because we must help our brothers and sisters on Earth so they have a better life because all life is precious. Those were some of our moral responsibilities as Catholics, but we also have civil responsibilities. Some of our civil responsibilities are following the laws. We must follow our laws because they are there to protect us. Some laws, though, are not good. For example in the United States, abortion is legal and we must work to make it illegal and change that law. Another one is that we must vote. We must vote because it helps people that share our same beliefs get into office and help change injustices and create laws that help the Catholic Church. These are responsibilities that all Catholic citizens must follow and carry out.

Being a Catholic in the United States today includes a lot of responsibilities that we must carry out. We have both moral and civil responsibilities. These duties are very important and we must follow them without hesitation. We all have responsibilities no matter what and we must follow them.

Second place: Jacqueline Premus

First of all, what is a free society? A free society is a society where all people have the right to practice unlimited freedom to live in whatever manner they choose. It is difficult for Catholics who do not live in one to fulfill some obligations, but as a Catholic in a free society, it is my responsibility to exercise my faith unceasingly by going to mass every Sunday, donating time and money to the poor and needy, and standing up for my beliefs.

Listening to the word and receiving the Eucharist weekly is essential to all Catholics. I should not let minor and insignificant activities, like sports, get in the way of my faith. Leisure events constantly disturb my day of rest, so I

can at least donate one hour of my day to go to church. Going to mass on, not just Sundays, but Holy Obligations as well are equally important. Going to mass and receiving the Eucharist is the least I can do to thank God and be a good Catholic. Other than just going to church, I also must donate time and money to people less fortunate than myself.

Being a Catholic in a free society does not just mean going to church. Some people think that's all there is to being a Catholic, but there is so much more. I also have the duty to live like Jesus did and help others. A way to fulfill this responsibility is to volunteer at organizations such as Holiday Express or a local soup kitchen. I already volunteer at some organizations, but I would like to help more. Sometimes I take for granted the things I have and I do not take time to thank God for how fortunate I am. That is why it is good to give back to my community, especially those who are not as blessed as I am. Besides helping the poor and needy people around me, another responsibility I have is to stand up for my beliefs.

Standing up for my beliefs is a major accountability for Catholics. Because I live in a free society, no one can say I cannot take a stand. For example, if someone wants to start some sort of fundraiser to legalize abortion, someone cannot tell them they cannot do this, even if they do not agree. Also, if someone is being bullied, it is my job to stand up for that person. Another example of standing up for my beliefs is doing a walk for a certain cause, like the Crop Walk. I have always wanted to participate in the Crop Walk, but I always had soccer on those days, so instead I sold t-shirts at my parish. These are just a few of many responsibilities of a catholic in a free society.

There are numerous other duties of a catholic in a free society, but these, in my opinion, are the most important. Going to mass, helping others, and standing up for what I believe in are crucial responsibilities of Catholics in a free society, and I plan to live them out indisputably.

First Place: Catherine Moran

As Catholic citizens, it is our responsibility to live out our faith by doing many different good things for the church, people in our family, and many others. Being a catholic citizen does not mean just going to church on Sunday for an hour and then disregarding our faith for the rest of the week. We need to do good things everyday to be and act like a Christian. We need to think about what Jesus would do.

Being active in our faith is one of the responsibilities that we have as Catholic citizens. It is important to go to mass every Sunday and make time for God. God always makes time for answering our prayers so we should make time for God. Whenever we pray to God, it is usually to ask him to do something for someone or to help someone, but do we ever take time to pray to God to thank him for what he does for us? We always make time for things like basketball practices, watching TV, and hanging out with our friends, but we are always able to find an excuse to be late for church or even worse, not to go at all. God is only asking us for one hour a week. I think that we can all take one hour a week for spending time with God.

Another responsibility we have as Catholic citizens is to donate our time to the poor and the church. There are about 36.5 million people in the world that are poor. That is about 12 percent of the population. That's a lot of poor people. As kids, we might not fully understand what it means to be poor since we are used to getting the latest and greatest phones, clothes, and everything that we want and desire to have. That is why it is important to do Christian service. We cannot help everyone in the world but we can all help one person.

There are many things that we should do as followers of Jesus. One of them is to spread the word of God. We should never be afraid to stand up for what we believe in. We live in a free society where we can believe in whatever we want to. We should never be ashamed of or feel embarrassed about our faith. We should always choose God because God will guide us and help us through everything. Everyone should know that and should never forget it.

We are humans. We are not perfect and sometimes we might not feel like going to church or giving up a Saturday morning to do Christian service but we do it because we know that it is the right thing to do. We know that we should always do Christian service when we get the opportunity to because we love God and we want to be, live, and act like him. We know that God is good all the time. We know that the Holy Spirit is always here to guide us. But most of all, we know that even if we mess up today, there is always tomorrow to make a difference in the world.