



SCRIPTURE AND CITIZENSHIP

WE ARE CREATED

We are Created - in God's image, to share in His life. This is the source of our dignity.



Before the world was made God chose us... to live through love in his presence.
Ephesians 1:4

This uniqueness of human beings is the starting point for our Catholic understanding of citizenship: we are created on earth but we share in the life of God and our destiny is the Kingdom of heaven. This is a golden theme from Genesis to Revelation.

We see three common rights of citizenship flowing from this:

- we are created with reason and free will, so we have a civil right to individual freedom
- we are protected by a God who promises to shelter us under his wings, so we have a social right to welfare and security
- we are called to serve the common good, so we have a political right to participation.

When we help our children to understand that they are created to be who they are, that they are loved as they are and that they are irreplaceable in God's plan, we nurture in them self-respect. We give them a reality against which to evaluate and navigate our world of conflicting influences and images.

- As Catholics how do we understand citizenship?
- How do we encourage our children to be good citizens?
- What can the Bible teach us about citizenship?



ACTION POINTS FOR FAMILIES

Read this Bible story:

Joseph provides for his family (Genesis 45)

Show one act of kindness this week to someone in your family, neighbourhood or to a passing stranger.

Say the 'Our Father' prayer.