

# IN Everything GIVE Thanks

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
October 4, 2020

Thurs.	Oct. 8 <sup>th</sup>	7:00pm	St. Columbkille
Fri.	Oct. 9 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am	St. John
Sat.	Oct. 10 <sup>th</sup>	5:00pm	St. John
Sun.	Oct. 11 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am	St. Joseph
Sun.	Oct. 11 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	St. Columbkille

### Confession

Saturday 11:00am -12:00pm St. Columbkille

### Readings for the Week

#### Monday, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>

Galatians 1:6-12 Luke 10:25-37

#### Tuesday, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>

Galatians 1:13-24 Luke 10:38-42

#### Wednesday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>

Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14 Luke 11:1-4

#### Thursday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>

Galatians 3:1-5 Luke 11:5-13

#### Friday, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>

Galatians 3:7-14 Luke 11:15-26

#### Saturday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>

Galatians 3:22-29 Luke 11:27-28

#### Sunday, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>

Isaiah 25:6-10a Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20  
Matthew 22:1-10



We will be having a rosary on Wednesday's at 7:00pm in St. John's parking lot, if weather is bad we will move into the gym.

### Let Us Give Thanks!

Weekend Collection - \$3764.00

Loose - \$81.00

Building fund - \$40.00

650 Parish Families

(363 Family envelope holders)

99 Envelopes used

### Mass Intentions for the Weekend of Oct. 3 & 4

Saturday St. John: + Beatrice Micklash

Sunday St. Joseph: + Tracy Lynn Rich

Sunday St. Columbkille: Good Shepherd Parishioners

### In this Sunday's Reading

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them." - Matthew 18:20

This passage usually is understood to be "two or three gathered" in worship, but it can just as appropriately mean two or three gathered in caring for others. We probably know of many groups that gather to provide food, shelter, money, support to those in need.

Consider joining such a group which is gathered in Jesus' name; or if you are already part of such an organization, consider a bigger role - or even inviting someone new to join in and help with the ministry.

### Coats for Kids

It's that time again for our Coats for Kids collection. Please drop off new or gently used coats, gloves, hats, and scarves at all churches or parish center. Coats for Kids distribution will be sometime in October.

Thank you for your generosity.

Come support our small businesses. Local small businesses will be set up in the back yard of B&B Winery. This will be an outdoor event, allowing for proper social distancing and safety. The Best in the Back Yard will be held on October 17th from 12:00-6:00 pm. Businesses attending include: The Bagel Lady, TVO Auxiliary, Grizzly's Wellness, Happy Hands, Chris ' Crafts, Bad Axe Soap Company, Cabin Confections, and more featuring fresh roasted coffee, chocolates, handcrafted jewelry, clothing, wool items and gift items. There will be a grilled hot dog, or a bowl of chili lunch, by donation only to support the Uby Community Club

Please remember your parish when planning your estate



### Religious Education/Faith Formation

Please pray for all who come together for our programs. Wednesday & Sunday program includes:

Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Ugly 3- 4:30pm Wednesday (Oct. 7, 21)

Sheridan Corners: Wednesday (Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28)

Argyle: 6-7:30pm Sunday (Oct. 11, 18)

### Youth Group

Youth Group next meeting will be Sunday Oct. 25, 2020 from 5:00pm until 7:30pm at the Parish Center.

Youth group is for all 7<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> graders all are welcome and there is no charge.

### Envelope Survey

Thank you all who returned their survey.

If you didn't return your survey and need another copy or call in your desire to receive or stop receiving envelopes, please contact the office 989-658-8824, this will help our parish save money. You are still a parishioner even if you choose to not use envelopes.



### Christian Initiation

Do you know someone who is getting married to a Catholic and would like to know more about the Catholic Church? Have you been coming to church with your spouse for years and been thinking about becoming Catholic? Were you Baptized Catholic but never received any other Sacraments, only some of the Sacraments or little instruction in your faith?

Do you have children older than the age of seven who have never been baptized or older children who have been baptized but never received the Eucharist or Confirmation? Do you know someone who is simply looking for something that is missing in their life or are hearing the first stirrings of the voice of God in their life? We simply invite you to come as an Inquirer, as one who seeks, to explore the whisperings of God in your life. Inquiry Sessions will be held at St. Columbkille Church in the gathering room on Oct. 18 at 6:30 pm. For more information, please call Dana Irion @ 989-553-0585 or Fr. Nate @ 989-658-8824.

## VOLUNTEERS SCHEDULED:

### Counters:

Please remember that we are counting on Tuesday until the end of the year! Thanks

Oct. 6: Judy Messing, Rose Maikrzek, Shirley Piontkowski

Oct. 13: Del Czewski, Ann Ympa, Barb Roggenbuck

Oct. 20: Olave Bukoski, Charlotte Baker, Carol Beaudin

5:00pm Saturday Mass Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> St John

Lector: Martin Kubacki

EMHC: Del Czewski

Ushers: Jim Osentoski, Whitey Pawlosky

8:30am Sunday Mass Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> St Joseph

Lector: Mary Fraley

EMHC: Chuck Izydorek

Ushers: Gordon Farrelly, Kevin Hessling

10:30am Sunday Mass Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> St Columbkille

Lector: Lori Osantoski

EMHC: Jerry Fischer

Ushers: Dennis Sweeney

### Quilts Wanted

Looking for quilts or blankets of any size that you would like to donate to be sent to California wildfire area. Please bring to Parish Office. Any questions contact Jo Izydorek 810-705-2948. If you have quilt that you would like to donate but needs to be quilted, Jo will do it for free, but unable to bind it.



### Bad Axe Knights of Columbus Fish Fry is back

Curb side pickup only. Meals will be prepackaged and include Generous portion of deep fried pollock, scalloped potatoes, baked beans, coleslaw, tuna macaroni salad, tartar sauce and roll with a choice of dessert SORRY! NO substitution, NO phone orders and NO all-fish \$10 per meal, please have correct change. Make checks out to: Bad Axe Knights of Columbus October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 serving from 4 to 7 pm Pull in the driveway and follow the sign and markers around the parking lot to order your meals. Meals will be delivered to your vehicle by the main entrance under the awning.

Please remember your parish when planning your estate



# Jesus Thirsts for You!

Fr. Nate's Update October 4, 2020

Good Shepherd Parish Office: open Mon.-Thurs.

8:30am-3:30pm (also St. John Church open hours)

989-658-8824 - goodshepherd48475@gmail.com

Daily Mass: Thursdays 7pm @ St. Columbkille;

Fridays 9am @ St. John

and Eucharistic Adoration until 11am

Reconciliation: Tuesdays 4pm @ St John; Saturdays

11am @ St. Columbkille

[check below & FACEBOOK page for cancellations]



*(I'm grateful for a generous Ugly neighbor who got me this! Please say a prayer for her who I will keep anonymous)*

Dear Reader, fellow Saint-in-the-Making, Happy 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time!

**First, some humor:** *A newly-ordained pastor, in the first days of his first call, was attempting to console the widow of an eccentric man who had just died. Standing before the open casket, the nervous young pastor said, "I realize this must be a very hard blow for you, Mrs. Svenson. Just try to remember that what we see before us is only the husk or the shell of your dear husband. The nut has gone to heaven."*

**33 Days Consecration Mass:** All are invited to this Mass, especially those reading "33 Days to Morning Glory" at home retreat book! We will be having a special Consecration Mass Wednesday Oct. 7 at 6:00pm at St. John Church, where we will have the opportunity to make the life-changing decision to consecrate ourselves to JESUS through MARY! If you wish to bring a flower to offer Mary, you can, but carnations will be provided.

**PREPARING TO VOTE:** Our bishops seek to help Catholics form their consciences about a wide range of issues. I offer the enclosed comparison sheet, with approval from our diocese, to help us do that. The info has been gathered from policies, public statements, official and campaign websites, and other resources, as of September 1, 2020. The sheet offers only 2 candidates; however, a Catholic, with a properly formed conscience, may decide to vote for a third party, even if unlikely to win.

Pastors of souls like myself are primarily concerned about the eternal salvation of our people, and voting is a serious moral responsibility with eternal consequences for each of us. Christ has charged me to help you form your conscience in order to vote according to Church teaching.

The 1st point: PRAY. Pray about how to vote. Spend a good amount of time in quiet prayer, just you alone with Jesus, asking Him, "Who do you want me to vote for?"

The 2nd point: All issues do not carry the same moral weight. In deciding how to vote, the bishops say, "it is essential for Catholics to be guided by a well-formed conscience that recognizes that all issues do not carry the same moral weight and that the moral obligation to oppose policies promoting intrinsically evil acts has a special claim on our consciences and our actions. These decisions should take into account a candidate's commitments, character, integrity, and ability to influence a given issue" (Electoral Guide) Not all issues carry the same importance; for example, protection of the environment is important, but protection of human lives- the unborn, prisoners on death row, the elderly, etc.- is more important. Since abortion was legalized, over 60,000,000 babies



have been violently aborted through surgical abortion, and countless more silently aborted through abortifacient contraceptives and devices such as the IUD.

The 3rd point: Catholics are called, “to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest.” Our bishops state, “we urge our fellow citizens to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest” (Living the Gospel of Life, 33) end quote. Our Church does not teach that we must necessarily vote for the lesser of two evils. Our Church does not teach that a vote for a third-party candidate is virtually the same as a vote for another candidate. In order to exercise faithful citizenship, Catholics should research the positions of all candidates including third party candidates on the issues, especially the fundamental right to life. I will be praying for all of us as we for our consciences in order to vote as Catholics!

**Visit the King!** The King of the Universe is always present and waiting in the Blessed Sacrament. “Do you realize that Jesus is there in the tabernacle expressly for you – for you alone? He burns with the desire to come into your heart...” Stop in to visit Him at St. John Church during office hours Monday-Thursday 8:30am-3:30pm, or Thursdays at St. Columbkille from 1:00pm-7:00pm (except for days when 7:00pm Mass is cancelled; it will be cancelled Oct. 15)

#### **Poem THE NEW MORALITY by “Mary”**

You didn't make it, Unborn Child. They wouldn't let you be.  
To your bud of life, they took a knife. It's the “New Morality.”  
They didn't mean to hurt you, Love! You have to understand.  
Forgive them for what they did. Their life was so well-planned.  
They couldn't take you with them up the ladder of success.  
Money meant more to them than a child, heaven-blessed.  
Tell me, little Unborn Child, what did the Creator say?  
Did He wrap you in His love, and wipe your tears away?  
You hover on the edge of time. I see your faceless form.  
You laugh whenever children play, Oh, God, for you I mourn!  
He sent His only Precious Son to teach us all “the Way.”  
Still, we kill the unborn ones. It happens every day!  
You didn't make it, Unborn Child. They wouldn't let you be.  
They just expelled a blob of cells. It's the “New Morality.”  
*[Please know that Jesus offers forgiveness and healing to all who have been wounded by abortion!]*

**SURVEY: Weekly Wednesday Mass time?** I will be adding a weekly Wednesday Mass at St. John Church soon. What would be your preference: 8:00am, 9:00 am, or 11:30am? Please let me know.

**Saturday Mass Time Change:** Saturday Mass time will change from 5:00pm to 4:00pm for Daylight Savings time (November 1 - March 14) So, beginning Sat. Oct. 31, Mass will be at 4:00pm

**Pope's OCTOBER Intention:** *We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church (Lord, hear our prayer!)*

God loves you, I love you, I pray for you, please pray for me! -Fr. Nate Harburg





October 4, 2020

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 5:1-7 | Phil 4:6-9 | Mt 21:33-43

### **GROW AS A DISCIPLE** | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Have you ever had that feeling that all is right with the world? Perhaps it's the cool breeze on a crisp fall day, holding a newborn baby for the first time, or watching your friends or family enjoying each other's company around the dinner table.

These are grace-filled moments that bring to mind St. Paul's words today which speak of "the peace of God that surpasses all understanding." It can be all too easy to lose sight of them amid the stresses of daily life and a news feed dominated by negativity and catastrophic events. Paul, never one to shy away from taking a stand, is not asking us to bury our heads in the sand, however. His Letter to the Philippians encourages us to "have no anxiety at all," and turn our thoughts to "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious." In doing so, we can not only counter the negativity, but persevere in faith as we confront the challenges of 2020.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Paul goes on to say, in that same reading: "Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you." I think Paul just offered us the secret to a happy life! Allow this passage to speak to you today. Allow God's peace to permeate your heart and calm the unrest that can so easily creep in these days. And then pray that you can be the true, honorable, and gracious presence in another's life. Send this passage to a friend who may be hurting in some way, and invite him/her to think of a time recently when they felt the presence of God, the peace of God, in their life. And then offer to accompany them in their struggles - walk beside them and encourage them to "think about these things" that are excellent or worthy of praise.

**PRAY** Focus on the encouragement of St. Paul's words today and pray Psalms 100, 136, and 148. Pray these sacred hymns of praise and thanksgiving, and then suggest that you pray them together with your friend.



# Live the Gospel of *Life*

“to imitate Christ and follow in his footsteps”

*The Gospel of Life*



Each October the Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month, and the first Sunday of October is observed as Respect Life Sunday. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. Below are events and programs offered by the Diocese of Saginaw as a **Call to Action** in protecting the sanctity of life, from womb to tomb.

### Youth Witness Event “Surrounded by Saints”

This online event will include a special message from Bishop Robert Gruss, music by Village Lights, a reflection from Doug Tooke and more. Plan to attend November 1, 2020 at 7 p.m. Details are available at [www.witnessevent.org](http://www.witnessevent.org).

**TAKE ACTION:** Reach out to a friend going through a difficult time. Invite them to join you at this event!

### Faithful Citizenship

*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, is a resource to help Catholics form their consciences, apply a consistent moral framework to issues facing the nation and world, and shape their choices in elections in the light of Catholic Social Teaching. Visit [www.saginaw.org/election-resources](http://www.saginaw.org/election-resources)

**TAKE ACTION:** Do your due diligence. Research the candidates and ballot issues. Share your values respectfully in public discussions and promote actions which will serve the greater good.

### Catechesis Disability Ministry

The Body of Christ is called to be a faithful witness to the Gospel. Disability is an ordinary part of life, and each member of the Body of Christ, disabled or not, is part of the mission of Christ. This ministry promotes education and awareness of the great gift that persons with disabilities are to our communities and to assist parishes as they provide opportunities for full and meaningful participation for all people, including those with disabilities, in all aspects of life in the Church.

**TAKE ACTION:** Choose to become a welcoming presence, befriend a person or family coping with disabilities and encourage others to use their Baptismal gifts to serve the church.

### Walking with Moms in Need

This is a new parish initiative to create a ministry of walking with and providing resources for pregnant and parenting women and families. Many women who have had abortions have shared that if one person would have been there for them in their time of need, they would have chosen LIFE for their child.

**TAKE ACTION:** Become involved in helping moms in your parish and community choose LIFE! Ask your parish leader for details or visit [www.walkingwithmoms.com](http://www.walkingwithmoms.com)

### The Mother Teresa Endowment Fund

Established in 2005 to serve the needs of families with limited financial resources. As of today, more than 1000 babies have received infant car seats, portable cribs for safe sleep, diapers and formula through the Mother Teresa Endowment Fund’s financial support of local pregnancy centers.

**TAKE ACTION:** Donations welcomed at [www.ccfmm.org/fund/the-mother-teresa-fund](http://www.ccfmm.org/fund/the-mother-teresa-fund)

### Post Abortive Support

Project Rachel and Rachel’s Vineyard are faith-based programs created by the church to provide love, mercy and healing to those suffering the wounds of abortion. The Diocese of Saginaw has a specially trained team which provides a safe and confidential environment for individual support, bible study groups and weekend retreats.

**TAKE ACTION:** Do you know someone suffering the effects of abortion? Walk with them on their journey. Encourage them to reach out for God’s mercy, healing and forgiveness.

### January 2021 March for Life Events

“Witness to Life” 9 Day Reflection on the Dignity of the Human Person is scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2021 through Friday, January 29, 2021. For more details, visit [www.saginaw.org/events](http://www.saginaw.org/events)

**TAKE ACTION:** Encourage ALL in your community to Stand for Life! Join a parish committee to plan and promote Respect Life throughout the year. Contact your parish leader today.

For more information, contact Lori Becker at 989.797.6652 or [lbecker@dioceseofsaginaw.org](mailto:lbecker@dioceseofsaginaw.org).



# PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE COMPARISON // NOV 3, 2020

In keeping with its mission, the Virginia Catholic Conference aims to educate and inform Catholics about a wide range of issues. The information compiled here has been gathered from policies, public statements, official and campaign websites, and other resources, as of September 1, 2020, to help voters form their consciences before voting in November. The issues that appear here do not represent a complete list of issues that may be of importance to Catholics. The VCC neither supports nor opposes any candidate for public office.

“The right to life implies and is linked to other human rights - to the basic goods that every human person needs to live and thrive. All the life issues are connected, for erosion of respect for the life of any individual or group in society necessarily diminishes respect for all life. The moral imperative to respond to the needs of our neighbors - basic needs such as food, shelter, health care, education, and meaningful work - is universally binding on our consciences and may be legitimately fulfilled by a variety of means. Catholics must seek the best ways to respond to these needs.... Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights - for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture - is false and illusory if the *right to life*, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination.” (*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, Nos. 25, 26, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2019)

President  
**DONALD TRUMP**



Former Vice-President  
**JOE BIDEN**



## ABORTION

In 2016, Trump said that the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* “will happen automatically...because I am putting pro-life justices on the [U.S. Supreme] Court.”

In 2017, Trump signed into law a resolution to allow states to restrict Title X funding for Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers.

According to his website, “As president, Biden will work to codify *Roe v. Wade*, and his Justice Department will do everything in its power to stop the rash of state laws that so blatantly violate the constitutional right to an abortion...”

“As president, Biden will...reverse the Trump Administration’s rule preventing Planned Parenthood and certain other family planning programs from obtaining Title X funds.”

## DEATH PENALTY

In 2020, the Trump Administration presided over five executions (three in July and two in August), the first to be carried out by the federal government in 17 years. Two additional executions are scheduled in September 2020.

According to his website, “Biden will work to pass legislation to eliminate the death penalty at the federal level, and incentivize states to follow the federal government’s example. These individuals should instead serve life sentences without probation or parole.”

## EDUCATIONAL CHOICE

In February 2020, Trump said, “Yet, for too long, countless American children have been trapped in failing government schools. To rescue these students, 18 states have created school choice in the form of Opportunity Scholarships... no parent should be forced to send their child to a failing government school.”

In January 2020, Biden tweeted, “When we divert public funds to private schools, we undermine the entire public education system. We’ve got to prioritize investing in our public schools, so every kid in America gets a fair shot. That’s why I oppose vouchers.”

## ENVIRONMENT

Trump has begun the process of withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris Agreement on climate change, an international agreement to reduce global green-house gas emissions.

According to his website, a Biden administration will re-enter the Paris Agreement on day one.

## ETHICS IN RESEARCH

In 2019, the Trump Administration announced its decision to discontinue research conducted within the National Institutes of Health “involving the use of human fetal tissue from elective abortion”.

While serving in the U.S. Senate: In 2007, Biden voted in favor of the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007 (S.5), which provides for human em-bryonic stem cell research. In 1998, Biden voted against the Human Cloning Prohibition Act (S.1601).

## GENDER ISSUES

In 2019, the White House confirmed Trump’s opposition to the Equality Act, which would add the new terms “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” to the definition of “sex” in federal civil rights laws, and would exempt itself from the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993: “The Trump Administration absolutely opposes discrimination of any kind and supports the equal treatment of all. However, this bill in its current form is filled with poison pills that threaten to undermine parental and conscience rights.”

According to his website, Biden believes the Equality Act is the “best vehicle for ensuring equal rights under the law for LGBTQ+ Americans, and will guarantee that LGBTQ+ individuals are protected under existing civil rights laws.” Biden lists enacting the Equality Act as a top legislative priority.





# PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE COMPARISON

DONALD TRUMP

JOE BIDEN

## HEALTH CARE ACCESS

According to his website, Trump “repealed the Obamacare individual mandate, expanded plan choices and increased competition to bring down costs for consumers.” In June 2020, the Trump administration argued in a legal brief that the entire Affordable Care Act (ACA) should be invalidated. Signed into law in 2010, ACA expanded access to health care coverage for the uninsured.

According to a White House fact sheet, Trump “is using all available means to ensure safe vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics are developed, manufactured, and distributed in unprecedented time and scale in response to COVID-19.”

According to his website, Biden will protect the Affordable Care Act and build on it by “giving Americans a new choice, a public health insurance option like Medicare; increasing the value of tax credits to lower premiums and extend coverage to more working Americans; [and] expanding coverage to low-income Americans.”

According to his website, Biden’s COVID-19 plan “ensures the wide availability of free testing; the elimination of all cost barriers to preventive care and treatment for COVID-19; the development of a vaccine; and the full deployment and operation of necessary supplies, personnel, and facilities.”

## IMMIGRATION/REFUGEES

According to his website, “Upon entering office, President Trump called on Congress to fully fund a wall along the Southern border, to close legal loopholes that enable illegal immigration, to end chain migration, and to eliminate the visa lottery program.”

In July 2020, the Trump Administration announced it would reject applications for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program stating, “...the fact remains that Congress should act on this matter.”

The Trump Administration proposes resettling 18,000 refugees under a new refugee ceiling. The number admitted in 2016 was nearly 85,000.

According to Biden’s website, “As president, Joe will prioritize a comprehensive immigration reform to finally give 11 million undocumented immigrants a roadmap to citizenship.”

In June 2020, Biden stated, “As President, I will immediately work to make [DACA] permanent by sending a bill to Congress on day one of my Administration.”

Biden will set the annual global refugee admissions cap to 125,000.

## POVERTY

In 2019, the Trump Administration opposed a House-passed bill that would raise the federal minimum wage to \$15, stating, “efforts to reduce taxes, eliminate regulations, and implement fairer trade deals are driving economic growth and increasing workers’ take-home pay far more effectively and efficiently than legislation like H.R. 582.” The current federal minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour; a number of states and localities have adopted higher rates.

According to Biden’s website, “He firmly believes all Americans are owed a raise, and it’s well past time we increase the federal minimum wage to \$15 across the country. This increase would include workers who aren’t currently earning the minimum wage, like the farmworkers who grow our food and domestic workers who care for our aging and sick and for those with disabilities.”

## RACIAL EQUITY

In June 2020, Trump announced four steps to address racial inequity and police reform: 1) aggressively pursuing economic development in minority communities; 2) confronting healthcare disparities, including addressing chronic conditions and investing in minority-serving medical institutions; 3) an executive order that will encourage police departments nationwide to meet the most current professional standards for the use of force, including tactics for de-escalation; and 4) renewing a call on Congress to enact school choice.

In a June 2020 op-ed, Biden said, “We should also be directing our resources to actively undo the negative effect systemic racism has had on opportunities for black Americans,” citing inequities for African-American entrepreneurs, the gap in home ownership and discriminatory lending practices. Biden also said, “...I’m proposing an additional \$300 million to reinvigorate community policing in our country. Every single police department should have the money it needs to institute real reforms...”

## RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

In 2017, Trump signed an executive order, which states, “Federal law protects the freedom of Americans and their organizations to exercise religion and participate fully in civic life without undue interference by the Federal Government. The executive branch will honor and enforce those protections.”

In response to a July 2020 U.S. Supreme Court ruling preserving the religious liberty of the Little Sisters of the Poor, a White House statement said, “As the Supreme Court has previously stated, protecting the ability of people to worship and live according to the dictates of their conscience is part of ‘the best of our traditions.’”

According to Biden’s website, “The Trump-Pence Administration has deliberately and systematically attempted to gut protections for the LGBTQ+ community by carving out broad religious exemptions to existing nondiscrimination laws and policies across federal agencies. Biden will reverse Trump’s policies misusing these broad exemptions...”

Regarding the July 2020 ruling, Biden said the decision, “will make it easier for the Trump-Pence Administration to continue to strip health care from women—attempting to carve out broad exemptions to the Affordable Care Act’s commitment to giving all women free access to recommended contraception.”

