

Why I Am Catholic

Because the Church is a firm spiritual and moral voice in a world full of ambiguity and uncertainty. A compass as we sail through the stormy seas of life.

Pope Benedict XVI has reminded us of this during his visit to the United States. He said: "Freedom is not only a gift but also a summons to personal responsibility. . . The preservation of freedom calls for the cultivation of virtue, self-discipline, sacrifice for the common good and a sense of responsibility towards the less fortunate. It also demands the courage to engage in civic life and to bring one's deepest beliefs and values to reasoned public debate.

"Democracy can only flourish, as your founding fathers realized, when political leaders and those whom they represent are guided by truth and bring the wisdom born of firm moral principle to decisions affecting the life and future of the nation."

The Church consistently reminds us that freedom without responsibility is not freedom. The irresponsible misuse of freedom leads to slavery to addictions and to attitudes and behaviors which, over time, lead to moral numbness and people adrift.

We cannot misuse the bodies and lives God has given us. When we don't follow God's design and plan, we choose a path of destruction and pain. When we follow His course and choose His path, we find joy, meaning, and the certainty that comes from a good life and a clear conscience.