

## Young Ladies' Grand Institute Non-Partisan Position Statement

As members of the Young Ladies' Grand Institute, we are non-partisan, which means we are not biased, or partisan toward any one political group or position. As Catholics, we must consider the Gospels and church teachings on a wide variety of issues and then use our consciences to make informed decisions.

We are asked during our initiation into the Young Ladies' Grand Institute if we will promise on our word of honor as a Catholic, to spread the good news of our Faith, and to uphold the Church and her teachings, to abide by the rules and regulations of the Institute, live up to its Christian principles and ideals. We respond: "I will."

We are members of Young Ladies' Grand Institute, a Catholic organization, which has for its objects the moral, mental and social advancement of Catholic women and the extending of assistance to its members in the time of sickness or need.

Our membership means that we are one with Christ, loyal to our Church and to each other. May we always aim for the moral, mental and social advancement of Catholic women.

While it is true YLI is a tax exempt organization, we are therefore not allowed to politically favor one party or endorse one candidate over another. To do so would threaten our tax exempt status.

Our role as a Catholic organization of lay women is not to serve as a political arm of the church identifying itself with one or another ideology. Rather as Catholic women, our role is to bring the wisdom of the gospel message to reflect on the real life social issues of our time.

At times the church may be impelled in conscience to give voice to social concerns such as poverty, education, care of the elderly, health care, and so on.

The gospel teaching is not inherently democratic or Republican.....the message of faith is intended to inform the dialogue and public discourse of people of good will in a hope-filled search for the public good.

To share ideas related to the public search for wisdom and truth should be a goal of all people of good will.

It is the lived experience of the church that people of good will and sincerity of faith can and do differ in exactly how the common good is best realized.

It is in an attitude of common respect and mutual trust that People of whatever political stamp attempt to accomplish what is best for our society as a whole.

As a church we support such open and honest dialogue in hope, seeking a radical realization of Gods peace and justice before all else.

As children of the Creator, may our communion in God's peace, lead us to mutual respect even in our differences —and a manner of services rooted in love.