

Public Life and Faithful Citizenship Answer Key

Readings	1. What topics and key messages does each of the readings in the following articles address?	2. Name four elements the four readings have in common.	3. Name one or more unique points made in each reading.
Article 26, "The True Role and Nature of Public Groups"	This reading addresses the topic of the nature of public groups. It expresses the key messages that all public groups and civil authorities, Christian or non-Christian, should be based on natural law; that we are called as Christians to be part of public life; that we must enter into public life by obeying the second Great Commandment and respecting each person's dignity and rights; and that public groups cannot fulfill their roles in God's plan of salvation if they are out of line with God's Eternal Law.	<i>Answers may include four of the following:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• our calling as Christians to be part of public life• that we enter into public life by promoting respect for human dignity and human rights• the importance of Eternal Law, natural law, and moral law in public life• obedience to civil authority• the obligation of both state and citizen to advocate for the common good• the responsibility of citizens to monitor public laws and practices, making sure they are just and in accordance with moral law• recognition that public groups do not always follow moral law	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The nature of public groups as based on natural law.• Our participation in public life represents our obedience to the second Great Commandment: love your neighbor as yourself.
Article 26, "Being in the World, Not of the World" and "New Testament Teaching on Obedience to Civil Authorities"	These readings address the topic of facing the situation where a public group commits actions that are directly contrary to moral law. The first reading expresses the key message that as Christians, we are called to give witness to our faith in God's moral law in our words, thoughts, and actions. The reading also states that we must make the choice to associate with those who do not always share our values, and to challenge those values that are contrary to God's values. The second reading expresses the key message that because human authority is rooted in God, we must obey civil authorities. The reading also states that we may cease to obey civil authorities only when our obedience conflicts with God's moral law.	<i>Answers may include four of the following:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• our calling as Christians to be part of public life• that we enter into public life by promoting respect for human dignity and human rights• the importance of Eternal Law, natural law, and moral law in public life• obedience to civil authority• the obligation of both state and citizen to advocate for the common good• the responsibility of citizens to monitor public laws and practices, making sure they are just and in accordance with moral law• recognition that public groups do not always follow moral law	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is our calling as Christians to associate with people who do not share our values and to challenge those values that are contrary to God's values.• Human authority is rooted in God, which makes for a deep connection between human authority and God.



Readings	1. What topics and key messages does each of the readings in the following articles address?	2. Name four elements the four readings have in common.	3. Name one or more unique points made in each reading.
Article 27, “The Role of the State”	This reading addresses the topic of the role of states in caring for their citizens. The reading expresses the key messages that states exist for the good of their citizens; that a state's most basic obligation is to ensure that the basic physical needs of all its citizens are met; that in order to make sure all citizens are cared for, a society must embrace the concept of the common good; that solidarity is becoming increasingly important to the creation of a peaceful, just world; and that a certain list of values exists, which states must put into practice in order to fulfill their duties to citizens.	<p><i>Answers may include four of the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • our calling as Christians to be part of public life • that we enter into public life by promoting respect for human dignity and human rights • the importance of Eternal Law, natural law, and moral law in public life • obedience to civil authority • the obligation of both state and citizen to advocate for the common good • the responsibility of citizens to monitor public laws and practices, making sure they are just and in accordance with moral law • recognition that public groups do not always follow moral law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of the state is to protect citizens' basic freedoms. • Solidarity is important in public life.
Article 27, “The Role of Citizens”	This reading addresses the topic of the role of citizens in human, civic communities. The reading expresses the key messages that we are required by the Fourth Commandment to fulfill the obligations we have as citizens; that we are obligated to follow laws unless they are truly unjust; that when a law is morally wrong, we are obligated to engage in civil disobedience; and that as members of a democratic society, we must work to prevent the passing of unjust laws, encourage and vote for political candidates who respect natural law and embrace the common good, educate ourselves about political issues, and influence our lawmakers to vote for laws that increase the common good.	<p><i>Answers may include four of the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • our calling as Christians to be part of public life • that we enter into public life by promoting respect for human dignity and human rights • the importance of Eternal Law, natural law, and moral law in public life • obedience to civil authority • the obligation of both state and citizen to advocate for the common good • the responsibility of citizens to monitor public laws and practices, making sure they are just and in accordance with moral law • recognition that public groups do not always follow moral law 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a strong connection between the Fourth Commandment and our obligations as citizens to respect public authority. • Civil disobedience may be used when a particular law is recognized as morally wrong.

