

## Ten Beatitudes for Catholic Advocates

**Be Prayerful.** Unless the Lord builds the house, we build in vain. Make prayer the foundation of all advocacy.

**Be Faithful.** Let the Lord light our path and the teachings of the Church guide us. Be faithful to this rather than any political party or agenda.

**Be Courageous.** Be not afraid. In the light of Christ speak up for what is right and true. Prophets are seldom popular but they are essential to a moral society.

**Be Kind.** Rather than moral condemnation seek conversion of the heart. When confronting evil, hate the sin but love the sinner.

**Be Hopeful.** The darkest hour is just before dawn. It took ten years for the MCC to pass a death penalty exemption for those with mental retardation. The Lord's timetable is not our own.

**Be Humble.** We don't have all the answers. We make mistakes. The Lord may be speaking to us through another person, even an opponent. Listen.

**Be Reasonable.** In the light of faith, respect and use the reason God has given us. Learn the facts, reflect on them and act for the common good.

**Be wise.** Turn away from the pundits and the twenty-four hour news cycle. Too much undigested news is not Good News and not helpful. Reflect – quietly and thoughtfully. Ask for the Lord's guidance.

**Be Patient.** Both with ourselves and with others. No one is perfect and no system of government is perfect but we are called to work for the common good.

**Be Grateful and Joyful.** "Where are the other nine?" (Luke 17:17)  
Cultivate a grateful heart. Recognize the blessings God has given to our state, nation and world. Reject the politics of anger and resentment. Focus on the positive.