

# WHAT'S HAPPENED TO CIVILITY?

“Our country’s political discourse has become much less civil over the last several decades to the point where there is a near paralysis in our federal government and too often at the state and local levels.”

“Respect and love ought to be extended also to those who think or act differently than we do in social, political and even religious matters.”

“If we want people running for elected office to behave better, we have to start with behaving better with people we encounter who hold differing opinions than our own.”

EXCERPTS FROM THE  
WASHINGTON STATE BISHOPS’ STATEMENT  
FEBRUARY 27, 2020

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## RESOURCES

[Catholic Social Teaching 101](#)

[Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching for Children](#)

[We Are Salt and Light video](#)

[Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](#)

**CIVILIZE IT**  
★ ★  
DIGNITY BEYOND THE DEBATE



## ★ ★ AND HOW CAN I HELP GET IT BACK?



### BRINGING CIVILITY BACK INTO MY LIFE

1. Listen and try to see Christ in others
2. Seek first to understand, not to be understood
3. Be open and nonjudgmental
4. Respond as if you are responding to God
5. Ask Our Lord for help

### MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE A PRAYER FOR CIVILITY

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where uncivil words prevail,  
show me how to model love.  
Help me remember the God-given dignity of all  
and invite others to do the same.  
Show me how to build bridges and not walls  
and see first what unites us  
rather than how we diverge.  
Let me seek to understand  
before asking to be understood.  
Give me a listening heart filled with empathy  
and compassion.  
May I be clear in sharing my own position  
and respectful and civil in describing those  
of others.  
Let me never tolerate hateful ideas.  
May I invite all to charity and love.  
Lord, help me to imitate your compassion and  
mercy. Make me an instrument of your peace.  
Amen.