



# POLITICS, RACE, AND RELIGION: The 2016 Catholic Voting Guide

**PRESENTED BY PROFESSOR MEAGHAN O'KEEFE**

The leaders of the American Catholic Church have issued voting guides for every presidential election since 1976 (the first presidential election after the Roe v. Wade decision legalized abortion). This year's voting guide is substantially similar to the voting guides issued in 2012 and 2008 except for one very significant difference. In previous voting guides, racism was specifically identified as "intrinsically evil" and voters were sternly warned against voting for candidates who supported racism because to do so would constitute "formal cooperation in grave evil." The 2016 voting guide places far less emphasis on racism. In this informal talk, I explore why the American Catholic Church has changed its discourse around race and racism in public political statements.

**This is part of the NOTES FROM THE FIELD lecture series.**

**This series consists of informal lectures on religion by faculty from UC Davis or from neighboring campuses that focus on faculty members' recent research.**

**Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 12:10-1:00pm**

**912 Sproul Hall**

**TEA WILL BE SERVED.**

**THIS LECTURE IS FREE AND OPEN TO ALL. UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ARE ESPECIALLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.**