

# RECORD EDITORIAL POLICIES

## Mission and Vision

Flowing from the mission of the Archdiocese of Louisville, the mission of the Archdiocesan Communications Center is to communicate the good news of Jesus Christ to the people of Central Kentucky. As one of the vital ministries of the Communications Center, *The Record* carries out this mission through a professionally produced newspaper that provides inspiration, information, and education to the people in the 24-counties of the Archdiocese of Louisville. *The Record* seeks to provide Catholics with the tools they need to make good decisions, to grow in their faith, and to carry out their baptismal calls to reach out to others in Christ's name and renew the face of the earth.

In response to our Holy Father's call to embrace new means of communications for the new evangelization, *The Record* is committed to exploring social media and other new communication technologies and to collaborating with other communications efforts of the Archdiocese and its parishes, schools, agencies, and institutions.

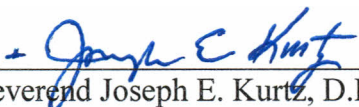
## Editorial Policies

1. *The Record's* priority in coverage involves stories about the Archdiocese of Louisville, national and international Catholic news, the Holy See, and civic and ecumenical or interfaith initiatives involving the Catholic Church. Consideration will be given to other stories, but some Catholic connection is necessary.
2. *The Record* only runs letters to the editor, advertising, or columns that are consistent with the fundamental beliefs (*Creed*) and authoritative teaching (*Catechism*) of the Church. The editor will consider, weighing both space available and pastoral need, letters to the editor that disagree with *The Record's* coverage or that disagree about practical issues or administrative decisions of the Church.
3. Participation in political life in light of fundamental moral principles is an essential duty for every Catholic and all people of good will. In light of this duty, *The Record* addresses political and social questions in a nonpartisan, nonsectarian manner consistent with USCCB's *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States*. Thus, *The Record* will run stories that address the moral and human dimensions of public issues, share Church teaching on human life, human rights, and justice and peace, and apply Catholic values to legislation and public policy issues. *The Record* may run stories that quote or feature public officials and politicians when the context is non-partisan in nature.
4. Consistent with the *Forming Consciences/or Faithful Citizenship* statement of the U.S. Bishops, *The Record* does not run stories that are partisan in nature. The newspaper does not endorse candidates for public office, accept political advertising, include stories about political candidates when they are running for office, or cover political campaigns. *The Record* also will seek to act consistently with the U.S. Bishops' policy about honoring or providing platforms to individuals.

5. *The Record* gives prominence in placement to what happens locally or to local implications of national or international news. Major national or international stories merit front page coverage from time to time, but generally the front page is reserved for local stories.
6. *The Record* does not run letters to the editor, advertising, or columns that attack individuals or groups of individuals. The archdiocesan newspaper should never become a forum for attacks.
7. The editorial page is reserved for the Archbishop, the editor, guest writers chosen by the editor, or for those writers approved by the Archbishop to write for teaching editorials.
8. *The Record* is open to story ideas, but news sources may not read reporting before it is published in the newspaper.
9. Only items from Catholic parishes, schools, agencies, organizations, or ecumenical or interfaith initiatives involving the Catholic Church will be publicized through the "Bulletin Board" or "Around the Archdiocese."
10. Coverage of schools is granted to those schools that have received canonical recognition as a Catholic school from the Archbishop, per canon 803. *The Record* does not cover or advertise other private or public schools unless they are involved in an initiative with a Catholic organization.
11. The "Time to Speak" column of the op-ed pages of *The Record* is designed to welcome writers that portray the diversity of programs, ministries, and concerns of the local Church. Thus *The Record* welcomes guest columns in the "Time to Speak" section from writers on a variety of topics of concern to the Church. The editor reserves the right to edit these columns for journalistic standards and to reject columns that are not in keeping with these standards or are contrary to the mission of the newspaper.

#### **Practices**

1. *The Record* staff will write all the good news we can, and all the bad news we have to.
2. *The Record* makes every attempt to balance coverage between urban and rural, east and west, among various populations and cultures, and from one school or parish to the next.
3. *The Record* responds, when appropriate and necessary, to changes and developing news. Thus it is the final determination of the editor when stories appear.
4. Reporters try to tell stories in 20 to 25 inches of newspaper space.
5. *The Record* does not cover sports as a regular part of the newspaper because of staffing and space limitations.



---

Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.  
Archbishop of Louisville

July 12, 2012