

RECORD EDITORIAL POLICIES

Mission and Vision

Flowing from the mission of the Archdiocese of Louisville, the mission of the Archdiocesan Communications Office is to communicate the good news of Jesus Christ to the people of Central Kentucky. As one of the largest ministries of the Communications Office, *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 equip Catholics with the tools they need to make good decisions, to grow in their faith, and to carry out their baptismal call to reach out to others in Christ's name and renew the face of the earth.

In response to emerging communication trends, *The Record* is committed to exploring a variety of communication platforms 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 local 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 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility*. 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.
5. 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, or cover political campaigns. *The Record* also seeks to act consistently with the U.S. Bishops' policy to refrain from honoring or providing platforms to individuals who take positions that are inconsistent with the moral and social teaching of the Church.
6. *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.
7. *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.

8. 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.
9. *The Record* is open to story ideas, but news sources may not read reporting before it is published in the newspaper.
10. 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."
11. Coverage of schools is granted to schools that have received canonical recognition as a Catholic school from the Archbishop, per canon 803, and that are located in the Archdiocese of Louisville. *The Record* does not cover or advertise other Catholic, private, or public schools unless they are involved in an initiative with a local Catholic parish, school, or organization.
12. The "A Time to Speak" column of the op-ed pages of *The Record* is designed to welcome writers who portray the diversity of programs, ministries, and concerns of the local Church. Thus, *The Record* welcomes guest columns under the "A Time to Speak" headline 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.

Most Reverend Shelton J. Fabre
Archbishop of Louisville
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