

Voting - a right or a duty?

The US Bishops write: “In the Catholic Tradition, ...responsible participation in political life is a **moral obligation.**” For many of us, the main “political” action remains the act of **voting.**

In the August primaries, only 17% of the eligible population in Michigan participated in the democratic process of elections!

WHY?

It is not easy to go to our polling place

- when one works 10 hours a day,
- taking care of children or older people.

Unfortunately, the restriction imposed in Michigan of only one day for voting, makes it difficult for many people.

However, the use of “**Absentee Ballot**” could make it easier for many of us. The use of the “absentee ballot” is not reserved for older or handicapped people. If you work long hours in a different city or would not be able to present yourself to the polling station for whatever reason, you can always request an “Absentee Ballot.”

The form to request an Absentee Ballot is available on-line or in person at the Clerk’s Office of your city. The ballot of candidates for that Election will be sent to you about 30 days before Election Day.

So if you may not be able to vote in person on the day of elections, please ask for an “absentee ballot.” Yes, all of us have the right to vote... but do we fulfill our duty?

- Dot Wolff, Justice and Peace Ministry