

SAT, JUNE 13, 2026 | LA CROSSE, WI

ZEALE *for*
AMERICA
250

PRESENTED BY

CatholicVote zeale

WELCOME TO ZEALE FOR AMERICA 250

We are so grateful you are here with us for this joyful and historic celebration of our nation's 250th birthday.

Today, we gather not only to celebrate America, but to pray for her. We remember with gratitude the 56 courageous men who signed the Declaration of Independence, the bravery of General George Washington and the Continental Army, the perseverance of the American people in those founding years, and above all, their trust in Almighty God.

We give thanks for the countless blessings God has bestowed upon our nation, and for the noble ideals placed before us in the Declaration of Independence: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness under the providence of our Creator.

We also pray for America today—that our country may overcome the confusion, division, and false ideologies that seek to pull us away from God, from one another, and from the principles that have made this nation a beacon of hope.

But this gathering is also a celebration. We are here to rejoice, to enjoy one another's company, and to give thanks for the gift of being Americans. Faith and heartfelt patriotism belong together.

As Cardinal Burke has reminded us, patriotism is a virtue to be cultivated.

And there is no better soil in which to cultivate that virtue than the fertile ground of faith.

Thank you for being part of this unforgettable celebration!

May God bless you, and may God bless America.



KELSEY REINHARDT

President and CEO

CatholicVote

PROGRAM

WELCOME

Steve Cortes

OPENING CEREMONY

Color Guard | *La Crosse County Sheriff's Office*

Pledge of Allegiance | *U.S. Air Force Reservist Lt. Col. Andrew DeBerry*

National Anthem | *Bradley Banning*

PRAYER FOR AMERICA 250

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Fr. Ambrose Criste

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Bradley Banning

REMARKS

Kelsey Reinhardt

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke

Isabel Brown

FIRESIDE CHATS

Josh Mercer and Joe Lombardi

Erika Ahern and Cecilia Jean

KEYNOTE

Michael J. Knowles

CLOSING REMARKS

Kelsey Reinhardt and Steve Cortes

CLOSING PRAYER WITH RELIC OF THE TRUE CROSS

Cardinal Raymond L. Burke

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Bradley Banning

CHAPLET OF THE THE DIVINE MERCY

OPENING PRAYERS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty yourself out upon us.

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in you! (x3)

Our Father

Hail Mary

The Apostles' Creed

FOR EACH OF THE FIVE DECADES

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, soul and divinity of your dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

For the sake of his sorrowful Passion,
have mercy on us and on the whole world. (x10)

CONCLUSION

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world. (x3)

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

Amen.



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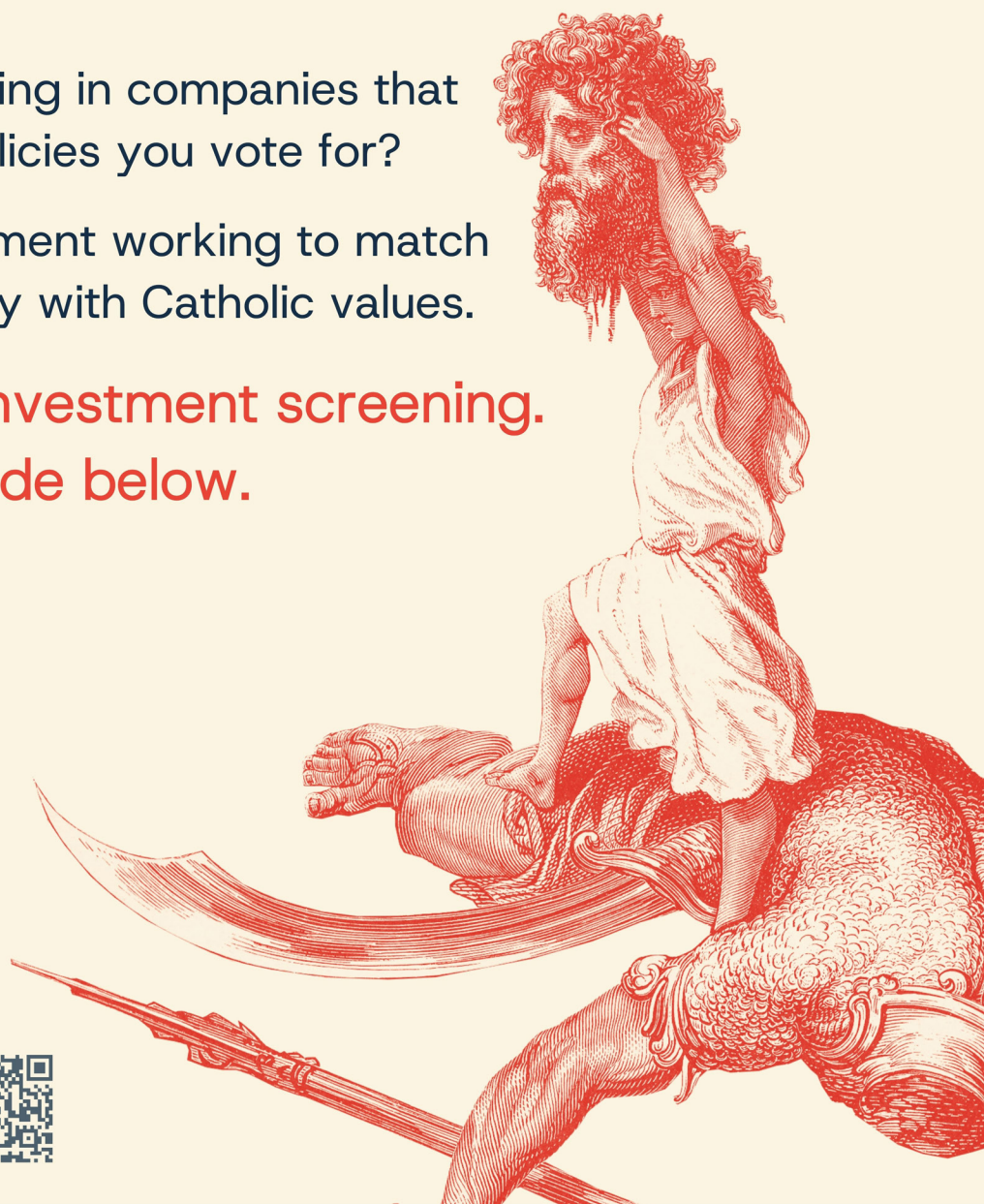
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CatholicVote to tell the Catholic story of the country.



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CARDINAL **RAYMOND** **L. BURKE**

Raymond Leo Burke was born in Richland Center, Wisconsin, on June 30, 1948, the youngest of six children.

After studying philosophy at The Catholic University of America and theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, he was ordained to the holy priesthood by Pope Paul VI at St. Peter's Basilica on June 29, 1975.

On December 10, 1994, Monsignor Burke was appointed Bishop of La Crosse by Pope Saint John Paul II, who consecrated him a Bishop on January 6, 1995.

He served as Bishop of La Crosse for nine years. Bishop Burke was named Archbishop of Saint Louis, and was installed on January 26, 2004.

On June 27, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI appointed Archbishop Burke as Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura. He was elevated to the College of Cardinals on November 20, 2010. Appointed in November of 2014, Cardinal Burke is the Cardinal Patron of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. In September of 2017, Cardinal Burke was appointed as a member of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura.



KELSEY **REINHARDT**

Appointed to the role of President and CEO in 2025, Kelsey Reinhardt joined CatholicVote as Head of Media and Evangelization in 2024, bringing with her a rich background integrating deep theological insight, global advocacy, and mission-driven media leadership.

Born and raised in Gillette, Wyoming, Kelsey attended the University of Notre Dame on a full basketball scholarship and graduated in just three years.

After that, she set off on a rich and varied career path that began with the role of Legislative Assistant for the Office of Government Liaison for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, where she worked on immigration and refugee-related issues. Her journey then led her to parish and educational ministry and a rewarding opportunity to serve as a missionary in Nigeria.

Sensing a call to consecrated life, Kelsey spent nearly a decade with the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, deepening her faith and eventually discerning a different vocation before professing final vows.

After religious life, Kelsey held senior roles at EWTN News, where she helped launch the first Arabic-language Catholic news agency in Iraq for persecuted Christians and simultaneously led five international news agencies in six languages. She also served as Interim Executive Director of Catholic News Agency.

Kelsey holds a B.A. in Theology from Notre Dame and an M.A. in Theology from Augustine Institute—both magna cum laude. She and her husband, Matt, married in 2023.



MICHAEL J. KNOWLES

Michael Knowles is the celebrated host of *The Michael Knowles Show* at the *Daily Wire* and *The Book Club* at PragerU. In 2017, Michael published the #1 national bestselling treatise *Reasons to Vote for Democrats*, which President Donald Trump hailed as “a great book for your reading enjoyment.” The book has since been translated into Magyar and is available in bookstores throughout Hungary. In 2021, Michael published his first book with words, *Speechless*, which also reached #1 on the national bestseller chart.

In early 2020, Michael teamed up with Senator Ted Cruz to launch *Verdict*, which quickly rose to the top spot on the charts across all podcasts. Later that year, after an appearance guest-hosting *The Rush Limbaugh Program*, Michael’s daily podcast became syndicated to terrestrial radio, and he was named a Lincoln Fellow at the Claremont Institute. In 2025, Michael became the first podcaster to attend a White House Cabinet meeting.

Michael has received numerous honors, including the Fr. Benedict Groeschel Award from Good Counsel Homes, the Conservative Mind Award from *The American Conservative* magazine, and the Courage Under Fire Award from Regina Caeli Academy. In 2025, Ave Maria University awarded Michael an honorary doctorate of humane letters.

In addition to podcast and radio, Michael appears regularly on television, and his writing has been featured in the *Daily Wire*, the *Claremont Reviews of Books*, the *American Conservative*, the *American Mind*, and *Fox News*, among other outlets. Michael is a graduate of Yale University and has lectured at universities and research institutes around the world.

Outside of politics and media, Michael is also a founder and owner of Mayflower Cigars.



JOE LOMBARDI

Joe Lombardi is a veteran NFL coach and the grandson of legendary Green Bay Packers coach and Pro Football Hall of Famer Vince Lombardi.

A graduate of the United States Air Force Academy (Class of 1994), where he played tight end for the Falcons and lettered in lacrosse, Joe served four years on active duty in the U.S. Air Force as a program manager on the F-22 fighter jet program. His coaching career spans more than two decades, beginning at the collegiate level before reaching the NFL.

In the league, Joe has held key roles including quarterback coach for the New Orleans Saints during their Super Bowl XLIV championship season, where he contributed to Drew Brees' record-setting performances. He has served as offensive coordinator for the Detroit Lions, Los Angeles Chargers, and Denver Broncos, and is currently senior offensive assistant coach with the Baltimore Ravens (hired in February 2026).

A devout Catholic, Joe and his wife Molly are blessed with seven children—four sons and three daughters. He has spoken publicly about how his faith guides his life and coaching.



ISABEL BROWN

Isabel Brown is a full-time creator, activist, and author giving a voice to Generation Z as they navigate building a new American Dream on *The Isabel Brown Show with the Daily Wire*. Her content reaches millions of people around the world daily, covering everything from politics to dating, faith to health, and of course the latest internet trend. In 2021, she published her first book, *Frontlines: Finding My Voice on an American College Campus*, sharing her encounter with radical leftism from the heart of America's university experience. Her latest book, *The End of the Alphabet: How Gen Z Can Save America*, makes a compelling case for why Generation Z is the last hope to save Western civilization from the upside-down Left, and why we shouldn't write them off just yet.

Isabel speaks regularly to share her hopeful message for the West to activism organizations and student groups worldwide. She is a Contributor with *The Daily Signal*, appears regularly as a guest on cable news networks, and has previously worked and collaborated with Turning Point USA, PragerU, Students for Life of America, and Live Action. You may recognize her from the cover of *Newsweek* magazine representing the voice of Generation Z!

Before her time in media, Isabel grew up in the mountains of Colorado and worked at the United States Senate and the White House. She obtained degrees in Biomedical Sciences from both Colorado State University and Georgetown University—and because she's not busy enough, she's currently pursuing a second masters degree in Theology from the University of Notre Dame. Isabel lives in Washington, D.C. with her husband Brock and new daughter, Isla, and loves adventure with her best friend and Corgi, Liberty.



BRADLEY **BANNING**

In a genre often caught between Saturday night and Sunday morning, Bradley Banning is bridging the gap between the Grand Ole Opry and the Vatican. As a Catholic convert and country music artist, Bradley brings the fullness of truth to the heart of country music. Not watered down fluff, but real country music that doesn't compromise his Catholic faith.

For Bradley, the road to Rome ran straight through the heart of music city, Nashville, TN. After a decade of working in the music industry, he became Catholic, made the choice to stop chasing trends and start sharing the Gospel.



FR. AMBROSE **CRISTE**

O.PRAEM., S.T.L.

Father Ambrose Criste is a Norbertine canon regular from St. Michael's Abbey in Orange County, California. He grew up in Colorado and graduated from Colorado College with a degree in Classics/History/Politics. He won the Rhodes Scholarship and began a graduate degree at Oxford University before answering God's call to religious life and the priesthood. He entered the monastery in 2000, made solemn profession in 2006, and was ordained a priest in 2008. He finished his priestly studies in Rome with pontifical degrees from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (the Angelicum) and the Pontifical Gregorian University. He has served in various roles for his abbey community, including vocations director, novice master, and director of seminary formation. He currently resides at Corpus Christi Priory in Springfield, Illinois, and is the director of the Evermode Institute, a new program of catechetical formation.



STEVE CORTES

Steve Cortes serves as senior political advisor for CatholicVote. He founded the advocacy organization League of American Workers, which aims to improve sustainable public policy for workers.

Beginning in 2007, Cortes worked as a financial commentator for CNBC and then as a political on-air broadcaster for FOX News and CNN. He also worked on Donald Trump's 2016 and 2020 campaigns as a senior spokesman and strategist, leading Hispanic voter outreach. He also served as the senior media advisor for JD Vance during his Ohio United States Senate 2022 race.



JOSH MERCER

Joshua Mercer is Vice President of Advocacy and co-founder of CatholicVote. He is Editor-in-Chief of The LOOP, a daily news roundup on politics and Church news with roughly 500,000 subscribers. He also serves

as co-host of *The LOOPcast*, a weekly podcast on politics and church news. A graduate of Hillsdale College, Mercer has appeared on Fox News and been quoted by the *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Times*, Catholic News Agency, and other national publications. Josh and his wife, Lori, live in northern Michigan and have six children.



ERIKA AHERN

Erika Ahern is Producer and Host of *The Deep* and Co-Host of CatholicVote's *The LOOPcast*. A seasoned Catholic journalist, her work has appeared in publications such as *USA Today*, *Washington Examiner*, *National Catholic Register*, *RealClear Politics*, *RealClear Religion*, *The Daily Caller*, *Connecticut Examiner*, and *Crisis Magazine*. She is a contributing author and editor for CatholicVote's 2024 book *For God, Country, and Sanity: How Catholics Can Save America*. She appears regularly as a guest on podcasts and talk radio, including Newsmax, the Steve Gruber Show, Catholic Connection with Teresa Tomeo, Relevant Radio, and EWTN's Pro-Life Weekly. Erika and her husband live near New Haven, Connecticut, with their seven children.



TOM POGASIC

Tom Pogasic is an accomplished creator, executive producer, and podcast host widely recognized for his work with CatholicVote. A graduate of Ave Maria University, Tom has built his career at the intersection of faith, culture, and politics. He is best known for creating and hosting *The LOOPcast*, a live show covering faith, culture, and politics, as well as *Tom Across America*, a travel series celebrating American culture. He lives in Indianapolis, Indiana, with his wife and two children.



CECILIA JEAN

Cecilia Jean (@ceciliajeanblog) is the wife of a Naval Aviator, the mother to two little girls, the co-host to a top-rated podcast for Catholic women, *What In The Dang Heck*, and the host of the lifestyle show, *Flourish*, on Zeale.

Cecilia has experience in leadership development, tech start-ups, pro-life media, styling execs and celebrities, and facilitating hundreds of masterminds for women in all stages of life; she is a Distinguished Fellow for The Busch School of Business.

Cecilia has a passion for building an intentional environment; from the clothes that are chosen to how the home is designed, it all affects how women show up to their friends, families, and the work at hand. She loves to encourage others to recognize how everyday choices, even the smallest of decisions, all play into intentional living. Cecilia believes that when women live life on purpose, it's a gift to themselves, a gift to their families, and a compliment to God.



DAVE STOTTS

Dave Stotts, producer of Zeale's docuseries *Forgotten USA*, has spent over two decades traveling the world telling life-changing stories through video. As the host of EWTN Studios' *The Road Less Traveled*, and previously *Drive Thru History*, he has built a reputation

as a veteran on-location storyteller exploring the most compelling people and places in history. With a deep passion for the story of Christianity and its spread across the world, Dave brings audiences face-to-face with the stories that shaped the faith, sharing the beauty he has discovered in the Catholic tradition. Through his work - both uncovering the past and telling meaningful stories in the present - he invites viewers to discover heroes whose lives have the power to reignite our own passion for the faith today.

PRAYER TO
ST. MICHAEL THE
ARCHANGEL

Saint Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.

Be our defense against the wickedness
and snares of the Devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen.

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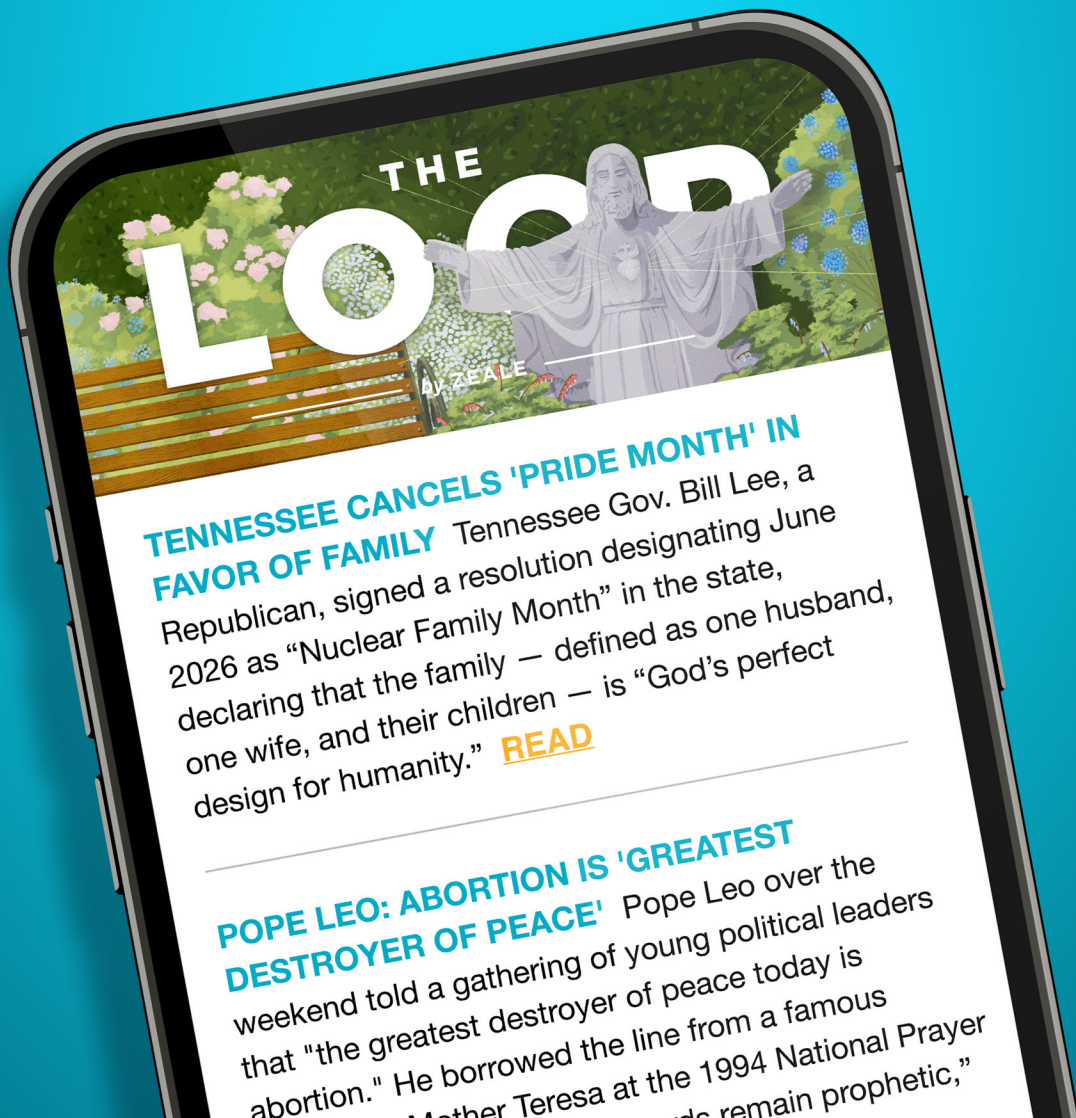
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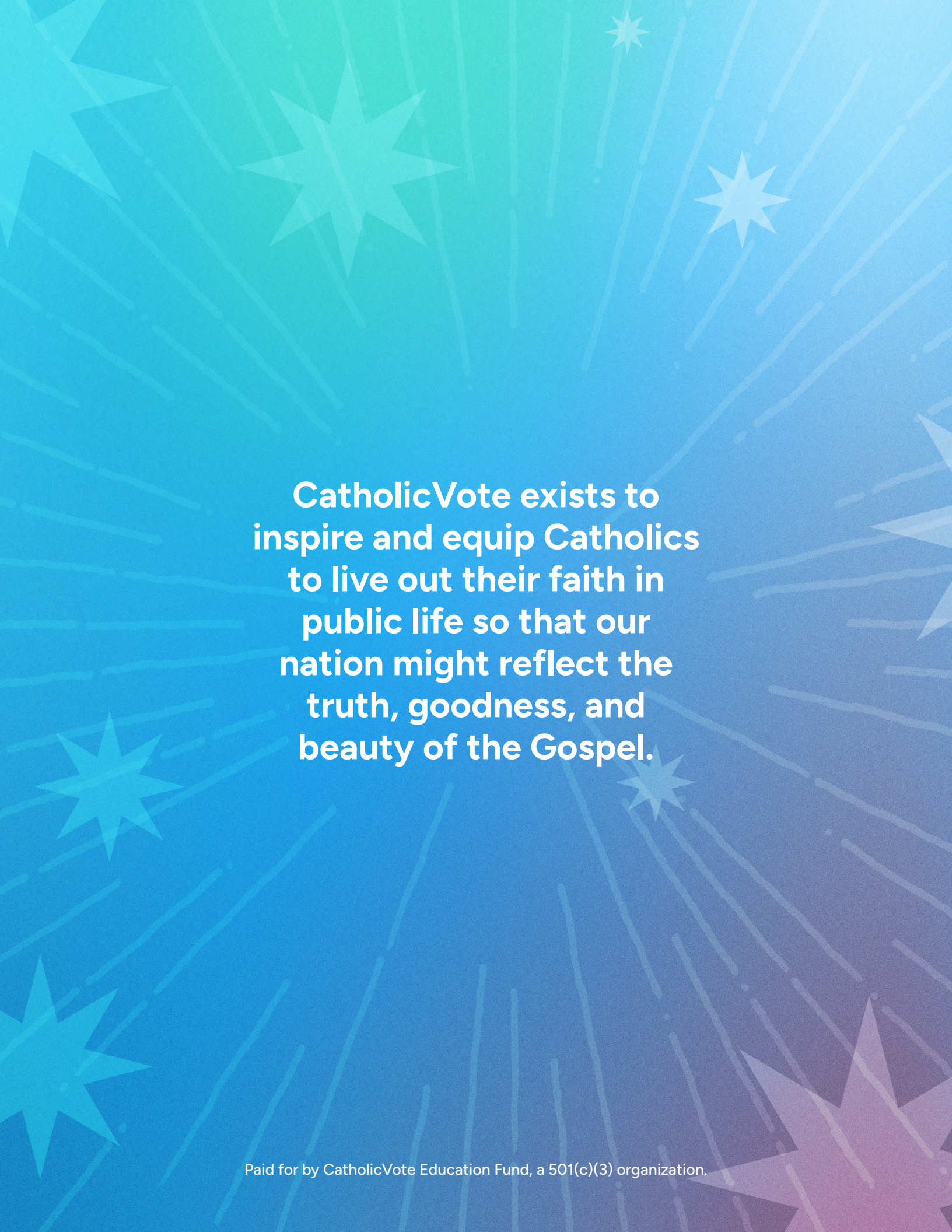




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The background features a gradient from light blue at the top to a darker blue at the bottom. Scattered throughout are several white, multi-pointed stars of varying sizes. Thin, white, hand-drawn style lines radiate from various points across the image, creating a sense of movement and light.

**CatholicVote exists to
inspire and equip Catholics
to live out their faith in
public life so that our
nation might reflect the
truth, goodness, and
beauty of the Gospel.**