



National Catholic Student Coalition

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NCSC/RES/2007[1]

POSITION PAPER - On the Importance of Dialogue

Whereas, the National Catholic Student Coalition strives to promote, within and among the group it serves, the formation of the Christian conscience, education for justice, the facilitation of personal development, and the development of leaders for the future;

Whereas, the National Catholic Student Coalition is committed to providing opportunities for spiritual growth, producing positive Catholic role models, and the facilitation of integrating career and faith;

Whereas, the use of dialogue, as a means of exchanging ideas or opinions on particular issues working toward an agreement as equals which results toward an action or solution, is the ideal form of communication;

Whereas, dialogue is more unbiased than debate, more honest than polite conversation, and more agreeable than skillful discussion, it is a continuous way of thinking and reflecting together a shared understanding in relationship between people seeking an even balance between advocacy and inquiry;

Whereas, dialogue honors all parties involved, suspends assumptions, observes the observer, listens to its own listening, is aware of thought, seeks collective intelligence, develops a shared understanding, and embraces possibility;

Whereas, recognizing that at times dialogue can be an endless process, moving slowly, may seem boring, and challenge our intentions of speaking; however, it is ultimately an expression of humility without humiliation and a behavioral exercise of becoming more Christ-like;

Whereas, Holy Scripture asks us to respond to our call “with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace;” to “bear one another’s burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ;” and asks us to note: “Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to become angry, for man’s anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires;” therefore be it

Recommended, that the National Catholic Student Coalition and its members adopt a preference for the use of dialogue as the ideal method of continuous communication when necessary and appropriate; and be it further



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Encouraged, that the members of the National Catholic Student Coalition engage in dialogue as humble life-long learners in various aspects of their lives in order to further form their Christian conscience, become increasingly informed about justice, mature as concerned individuals, and develop as effective leaders through the opportunities provided by the National Catholic Student Coalition, its international sister movements, and its partners.

Sponsored by: Christopher Derige Malano, University of Hawai`i at Mānoa; Susannah Bourbeau, Fordham University; Elizabeth Friedrich, Fordham University

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[1] Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians, 4:2-3

[2] Letter of Saint Paul to the Galatians, 6:2

[3] Book of James, 1:19-20

*This preference can be applied to all levels of relationships of the NCSC from internal to its partners, its international movement, the Church-at-large, ecumenically, inter-religiously, etc.