

## CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

A controversial issue is defined as a current problem or subject which has publicly evoked opposing viewpoints on the part of any mass media or communication or of any organized groups, or as any subject that arises in the classroom on which strong emotional bias is expressed by members of the classroom group.

Catholic school administrators and teachers have the obligation of teaching and advocating Church doctrine, which is contained in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* or in other authentic teaching documents of the Catholic Church, when this doctrine is relevant to any controversial issue being considered.

### **Principal Responsibility**

The presentation of controversial issues in the classroom shall take place solely at the discretion of the principal and only after the principal has approved all material and information to be used in the presentation. The principal shall also supervise the manner in which controversial issues are presented and discussed in the classroom.

The principal shall exercise professional judgment in granting permission for outside speakers to address any class or the entire student body. If the issue or topic is religious or doctrinal in nature, speakers must be approved by the pastor for parish schools, or the superintendent for diocesan regional schools and high schools, as well as through the diocesan approval process. No speaker may at any time contradict the teaching of the Church as presented in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* or in other authentic teaching documents of the Catholic Church.

In the absence of the principal, the assistant principal or the principal designee shall exercise the discretionary responsibilities of the principal in this regard.