

Statement of Brian Burch
Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
April 08, 2025

Chairman, Ranking Member, and distinguished members of this committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

I am deeply honored and humbled to be nominated by President Trump to serve as the United States Ambassador to the Holy See. This is a role of great significance, and I am grateful for the trust President Trump and Secretary Rubio have placed in me. I appreciate the chance to discuss how I can contribute to strengthening the relationship between our nation and the Holy See. I would also like to extend my heartfelt prayers and well wishes on behalf of all Americans to the Holy Father, Pope Francis, for a full and swift recovery from his recent illness.

I would like to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to my wife, Sara, whose unwavering support and love has been my anchor throughout this journey. And to our nine beautiful children, including my daughter in law – and my first grandchild – who remind me every day of how blessed I am. My school-aged children were given the day off today to watch their dad on tv. I hope to make them proud. Their love and encouragement remind me of the importance of the work that we do, and of the profound gift of life and family. I am deeply grateful.

I was born and grew up in Phoenix, Arizona, attended Catholic schools, and spent my summers from the age of 12 working alongside migrant workers on a relatives farm, harvesting produce and learning the value of hard work. My family is the story of the American dream. My dad and mom married at an early age and started with nothing but the only thing that matters – their Faith and love. My father taught me that America was the greatest country in the world, and to never take for granted the gift of our freedom. Last summer I lost my father to cancer at the early age of 69. I know he is looking down on me this morning, and smiling. He was right. In America, anything is possible, including the possibility that his son could be nominated by the President of the United States to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See.

As the president of CatholicVote, and for the past 25 years, I have dedicated my life to helping advance principles and policies aimed at building a civilization of love, a culture of life, and the conditions necessary for broad human flourishing.

My work has sought to incorporate the timeless teachings of my Catholic faith, including the truths of the human person and the common good, and to faithfully apply them to the public life of our nation. These efforts reflect the values of faith, family, and authentic freedom—values that resonate deeply with both the Catholic Church and the United States. My work has involved engaging voters, legislators, and faith leaders, and to give Catholics a voice in the debates that shape the future of our country. These experiences have honed my ability to navigate complex issues and build consensus, and to cultivate relationships built on human decency, competency, and trust – skills I believe are essential for effective diplomacy.

The relationship between the United States and the Holy See is both unique and vital. It transcends traditional diplomacy, rooted instead in our shared commitments to religious freedom, human dignity, global peace, and justice. The Holy See, as the governing body of the Catholic Church, plays a critical and influential role in international affairs. We can and we must continue our strong partnership, while advancing our mutual interests in addressing an array of global challenges, including working to resolve war and conflict in multiple regions around the globe, religious persecution, the exploitation of the poor and vulnerable, the scourge of human trafficking, and the defense and promotion of human dignity and prosperity.

If confirmed, my primary goal will be to deepen this partnership. The moral witness of the Holy See together with its global influence make it a key partner for an array of U.S. interests. I am confident we can contribute to a more just and peaceful world, reflecting the best of American values and the Holy See's mission.

Let me also assure this committee that I fully understand the distinction between advocacy and diplomacy. As ambassador, my sole responsibility would be to represent the interests of the United States. I am committed to listening, learning, and engaging with all stakeholders to ensure our policies serve our nation and its partners effectively.

In closing, I am profoundly dedicated to serving my country and enhancing the critical relationship between the United States and the Holy See. If confirmed, I look forward to working with this committee, the administration, and our counterparts at the Vatican to achieve our shared objectives. Thank you for considering my nomination, and I welcome any questions you may have.