



Panelists participate in Georgetown University's public dialogue on "Faith and the Faithful and the 2024 Presidential Election: Political Realities and Catholic Social Teaching" in Washington Sept. 11, 2024, hosted by the university's Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life and the Institute of Politics and Public Service. From left to right are: Kristen Soltis Anderson of Eschelon Insights, E.J. Dionne of Georgetown University, Kim Daniels (moderator) of the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life, Nichole Flores of the University of Virginia and Sohrab Ahmari of Compact magazine. (OSV News/courtesy of Georgetown University, Leslie E. Kossoff)

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"Some of the people most committed to the thriving of my children, and creating a space for me to be a Catholic mom, are people who also advocate for no restrictions on abortion," she said, to illustrate the tension that people with pro-life convictions may experience with respect to some Democratic candidates.

But Sohrab Ahmari, a founder and editor of Compact magazine, said he is "actually very optimistic about the prospects for the United States long term."

"I do think a new center is emerging — notwithstanding our partisan fury and notwithstanding the just utter ugliness of accusing one specific migrant community of eating cats, which was just disgusting," he said. Ahmari was alluding to a viral, refuted claim — repeated by Trump during the debate Sept. 10 watched by 67 million people — that falsely alleged Haitian migrants (a largely Catholic population) are kidnapping and eating pets in Springfield, Ohio.

"I think for Catholics, we should seek to build the center, no matter which side of the aisle we're on," he said. "That is when we see either party going into this solidaristic direction, reasserting the importance of the common good, reasserting the primacy of politics over markets, we should cheer them."

He added that "when we see either party going in the wrong direction, whether it's our own side or the other," that should be cause for criticism.

This story appears in the **Election 2024** feature series. [View the full series.](#)