



***Our webinar will begin shortly.***







***Welcome!***



# Choosing Community Over Chaos: Our Work in 2024

Wednesday, February 21, 2024



# Zoom



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# Tonight's Agenda



- ☀️ Welcome
- ☀️ What's at stake and NETWORK's holistic response
- ☀️ Looking back at the first session of the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress
- ☀️ Equally Sacred/Multi-Issue Voter
- ☀️ What do people care about in 2024?
- ☀️ Equally Sacred Checklist
- ☀️ Call to Action
- ☀️ Q&A



# OUR PRESENTERS



**Mary J. Novak**  
Executive Director



**Laura Peralta-Schulte**  
Senior Director of Public Policy and  
Government Relations



**Jarrett K. Smith**  
Government Relations  
Advocate



**Meg Olson**  
Director of Grassroots Mobilization



**Colin Martinez-  
Longmore**  
Communications and  
Social Media Coordinator



**Catherine Gillette**  
Senior Grassroots Mobilization  
Organizer

# 117<sup>th</sup> Congress: Historic wins for the Common Good!

- ☀️ Significant expansion of **healthcare**
- ☀️ Green incentives to tackle **Climate change**
- ☀️ Infrastructure **Jobs with Living Wages**
- ☀️ Child Poverty was cut by 50% with the **Child Tax Credit**
- ☀️ The Wealthy are required to pay their **Fair Share of Taxes**





# 118<sup>th</sup> Congress: Chaos and Crisis in the House

*“One of the most unproductive Congress’ in modern history.”*

- ☀️ Election of Speaker Kevin McCarthy took 15 votes over 4 days
- ☀️ More Drama in the House on Three “Must Pass” Bills
  - ☀️ A “Debt Ceiling” to extend the US government’s borrowing limit
  - ☀️ Two short-term extensions of funding to keep the government open
- ☀️ Speaker McCarthy was fired and it took 3 weeks to elect his replacement (Speaker Mike Johnson)



# 118<sup>th</sup> Congress: Chaos and Crisis in the House

Drama on Overdrive: Impeachment and the Border:

*A Preview of the 2024 Election*

- ☀️ Impeachment inquiry into DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas
- ☀️ Impeachment Inquiry into President Biden
- ☀️ Border, Border, Border



# Executive Action



The Biden Administration has focused on Executive Actions:

- ☀ Executive Action to Protect Seniors in Nursing Homes
- ☀ Executive Action to stop Junk fees in health, banking, and airlines
- ☀ Executive Action to Expand Student Debt Relief
- ☀ Executive Action to Expand access to Maternal Health supports



# Stark Choices Ahead in 2024

A stylized sun graphic with a circular face and radiating lines, positioned in the top right corner of the slide.

- ☀️ Finish the Job of Building Anew in a Multi-Racial, Inclusive Democracy so that All Can Thrive!
- ☀️ If democracy falters or there are more tax cuts for the rich, there will be cuts to programs like Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and SNAP.

# Single Issue Voting

What issues are important to you?

- ☀️ Dangers of single-issue voting
- ☀️ Pope Francis and the Equally Sacred Framework
- ☀️ “We cannot uphold an ideal of holiness that would ignore injustice in the world.”

*-Gaudete et Exsultate 101*



# We are *multi-issue voters* because we live *multi-issue lives!*

- ☀️ Freedom to:
  - ☀️ Be healthy
  - ☀️ Live on a healthy planet
  - ☀️ Participate in an inclusive democracy
  - ☀️ Live free from harm
  - ☀️ Take care of oneself and one's family



*"The only future worth building includes everyone."*

*-Pope Francis*



# How do we focus on the issues?

- ☀️ We listen to and discern the signs of the times.
- ☀️ We check different data sources and listen to people from across the country

*What we know is that a record number of people are struggling to put food on their tables and earn a living to support their families.*



# NETWORK's 2024 Issues

*Freedom to Participate  
in a Vibrant Democracy*



*Freedom to Care for  
Ourselves and our Families*



# NETWORK's 2024 Issues

*Freedom From Harm*



*Freedom to Live in a  
Welcoming Community that  
Values Dignity and Human Rights*





# NETWORK's 2024 Issues



*Freedom to be Healthy*



*Freedom to Live on a  
Healthy Planet*



# EQUALLY SACRED CHECKLIST

## How can we know we are voting for candidates who promote the common good?

Pope Francis makes it clear: **Catholics and all people of good will are called to be multi-issue voters, not single-issue voters**, in the 2024 elections and in our continued participation in public life. This resource can support you in educating yourself as a faithful voter on the issues and concerns that are **"equally sacred."**

*"We cannot uphold an ideal of holiness that would ignore injustice in the world."*



—Pope Francis, *Gaudete et exsultate*, par. 101

### FREEDOM TO BE HEALTHY

#### Will you vote for candidates who...

- will protect and expand affordable health care for all and end the injustice of medical debt?
- support policies to reduce the cost of prescription medicines so patients can afford lifesaving care?
- support ending the Black maternal health crisis by investing in the expansion of critical programs to support the lives of parents and babies?
- support ending hunger in our nation with needed food assistance programs, such as SNAP, WIC, and school lunch programs?

*The Catholic Church affirms that food and health care are not privileges reserved for the wealthy, but universal rights.*

### FREEDOM TO LIVE ON A HEALTHY PLANET

#### Will you vote for candidates who...

- will address the climate crisis and invest in a rapid, just transition to renewable energy?
- will end policies that benefit fossil fuel corporations, such as tax subsidies and approval of pipelines?
- will address pollution and toxic dumping that disproportionately affect Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities, and ensure clean air and water for all?

*Care for our common home is a requirement of the Catholic faith.*

### FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE IN A VIBRANT DEMOCRACY

#### Will you vote for candidates who...

- refuse to use violent language or threats of violence against other candidates or groups of people?
- will ensure all eligible voters have access to voting, and restore voting for formerly incarcerated people?
- will limit the power of the wealthy to manipulate our democracy through unlimited dark money and gerrymandering?

*Catholic teaching affirms that every person has both a right and a responsibility to participate in our shared political processes, which we must structure to serve the common good.*

### FREEDOM TO CARE FOR OURSELVES AND OUR FAMILIES

#### Will you vote for candidates who...

- will reduce costs for families, including via a robust Child Tax Credit, paid leave, and funding for childcare?
- will ensure all workers can earn a living wage and have the right to join a union?
- will ensure the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes, including by supporting a billionaire's tax?
- will address skyrocketing housing costs, including by investing in affordable housing, housing assistance programs, and a renter's tax credit?
- will support future generations by expanding training and apprenticeship programs and free college?

*Catholic teaching promotes the dignity of work, the rights of workers, and an inclusive economy that places people over profit and ensures that we all have what we need to thrive.*

### FREEDOM FROM HARM

#### Will you vote for candidates who...

- support common sense gun control, including banning the use of AR-15s and other weapons of war, so our children and communities can live safely?
- will protect the rights of marginalized communities including Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities as well as LGBTQ+ people?

*The Catholic Church insists upon every person's intrinsic worth, dignity, and right to live in safety—with no exceptions.*

### FREEDOM TO LIVE IN A WELCOMING COUNTRY THAT VALUES DIGNITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

#### Will you vote for candidates who...

- support the right to asylum and paths to citizenship, and prioritize integration?
- promote inclusive policies that support border communities rather than militarization?

*The Catholic Church affirms that we all have a right to migrate to seek a safe and good life for ourselves and our families, and that nations have a moral imperative to welcome immigrants.*

# Get Involved this Election Year

☀️ *Informed, Engaged, and Committed:*  
*NETWORK's 2024 Election Training Series*  
begins on **Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**.

☀️ **Save the Date!** On Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> we will welcome Fr. Bryan Massingale and Dr. Robert P. Jones back for "White Supremacy and American Christianity: Moving Towards the Beloved Community."

☀️ **Share** the Equally Sacred Checklist!

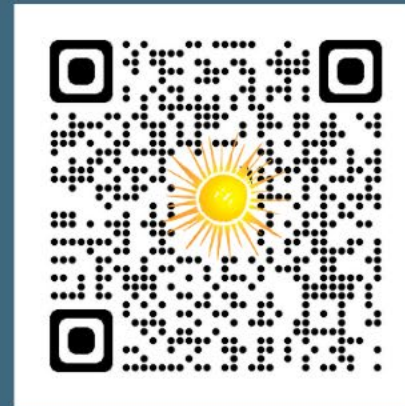
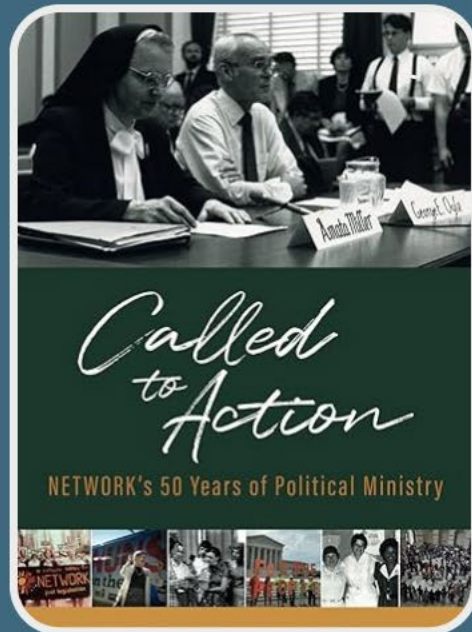






# NETWORK ORIGINS

Called to Action: NETWORK's 50 Years of Political Ministry

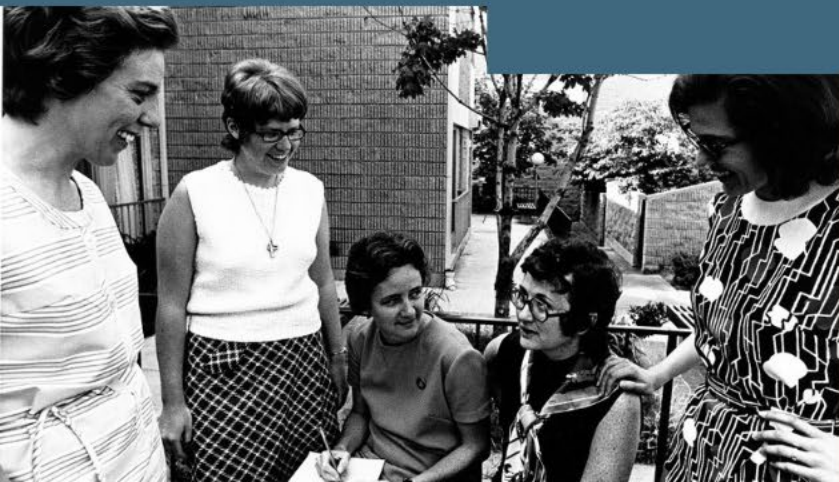


Available on Amazon





**Responding to the signs of  
the times for over 50 years.**





# NETWORK

NETWORK ADVOCATES FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE



# Thank you!

