



## State of the Union Bingo: Pope Francis Edition!

Tune in to President Obama’s State of the Union address on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 9:00 pm ET.

When Pope Francis addressed Congress, he said “It is my duty to build bridges and to help all men and women, in any way possible, to do the same.” Now, four months later, we’ve created this BINGO card to help determine if President Obama and Congress are up to the challenge of building bridges across partisan divides to legislate for the common good. Will President Obama echo Pope Francis’s message in his final State of the Union address?

We have put together this BINGO card based on the values espoused by Pope Francis in his 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si’*, and his address to Congress and at the White House during his historic trip to the United States in September 2015. Some of the squares are policy ideas, some are broader qualities for government at its best, but all are consistent with Pope Francis and Catholic Social Justice.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** When President Obama speaks about a quality or policy that echoes Pope Francis’s message to all of us, use our special BINGO pieces to cover that square. You can follow the endnotes to read the pope’s direct quotes. You get BINGO when you have five squares in a row—and people of faith and advocates for justice all win!

Let us know how BINGO went: Email us at [info@networklobby.org](mailto:info@networklobby.org)



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# B I N G O

Promote inclusion and reject discrimination <sup>1</sup>	Repair the criminal justice system <sup>2</sup>	Solidarity with future generations <sup>3</sup>	Reduce gun violence <sup>4</sup>	Cast special interests aside for the sake of the common good <sup>5</sup>
Prioritize a preferential option for people in poverty <sup>6</sup>	Full civil and political rights for African Americans <sup>7</sup>	Strengthen international cooperation <sup>8</sup>	Do not be a slave to the economy or finance <sup>9</sup>	Encourage good, proactive political leadership <sup>10</sup>
Address climate change <sup>11</sup>	Fight poverty and hunger <sup>12</sup>	<i>Grace Space</i> 	Do not be fearful of foreigners <sup>13</sup>	We all have a role in creating a more just world <sup>14</sup>
Nourish an economy that is creative, inclusive, and sustainable <sup>15</sup>	Respect differences in pursuit of the common good <sup>16</sup>	Do not infringe upon religious freedom in the fight against extremism <sup>17</sup>	Reduce air pollution <sup>18</sup>	Embrace the vision of young people <sup>19</sup>
Respond to the refugee crisis with humanity <sup>20</sup>	Reject war <sup>21</sup>	Abolish the death penalty <sup>22</sup>	Practice civic and political love <sup>23</sup>	Confront polarization <sup>24</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> “Together with their fellow citizens, American Catholics are committed to building a society which is truly tolerant and inclusive, to safeguarding the rights of individuals and communities, and to rejecting every form of unjust discrimination.” (White House Address)

<sup>2</sup> “I also offer encouragement to all those who are convinced that a just and necessary punishment must never exclude the dimension of hope and the goal of rehabilitation.” (Address to Congress)

<sup>3</sup> “Intergenerational solidarity is not optional, but rather a basic question of justice, since the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us.” (*Laudato Si'* 159)

<sup>4</sup> “Why are deadly weapons being sold to those who plan to inflict untold suffering on individuals and society? Sadly, the answer, as we all know, is simply for money: money that is drenched in blood, often innocent blood. In the face of this shameful and culpable silence, it is our duty to confront the problem and to stop the arms trade” (White House Address)

<sup>5</sup> “The failure of global summits on the environment make it plain that our politics are subject to technology and finance. There are too many special interests, and economic interests easily end up trumping the common good and manipulating information so that their own plans will not be affected.” (*Laudato Si'* 54)

<sup>6</sup> “In the present condition of global society, where injustices abound and growing numbers of people are deprived of basic human rights and considered expendable, the principle of the common good immediately becomes, logically and inevitably, a summons to solidarity and a preferential option for the poorest of our brothers and sisters.” (*Laudato Si'* 158)

<sup>7</sup> “Here too I think of the march which Martin Luther King led from Selma to Montgomery fifty years ago as part of the campaign to fulfill his “dream” of full civil and political rights for African Americans. That dream continues to inspire us all. I am happy that America continues to be, for many, a land of “dreams”. Dreams which lead to action, to participation, to commitment. Dreams which awaken what is deepest and truest in the life of a people.” (Address to Congress)

<sup>8</sup> “Mr. President, the efforts which were recently made to mend broken relationships and to open new doors to cooperation within our human family represent positive steps along the path of reconciliation, justice and freedom. I would like all men and women of good will in this great nation to support the efforts of the international community to protect the vulnerable in our world and to stimulate integral and inclusive models of development so that our brothers and sisters everywhere may know the blessings of peace and prosperity which God wills for all his children.” (White House Address)

<sup>9</sup> “If politics must truly be at the service of the human person, it follows that it cannot be a slave to the economy and finance. Politics is, instead, an expression of our compelling need to live as one, in order to build as one the greatest common good: that of a community which sacrifices particular interests in order to share, in justice and peace, its goods, its interests, its social life.” (Address to Congress)

<sup>10</sup> “A good political leader is one who, with the interests of all in mind, seizes the moment in a spirit of openness and pragmatism. A good political leader always opts to initiate processes rather than possessing spaces” (Address to Congress)

<sup>11</sup> “Accepting the urgency, it seems clear to me also that climate change is a problem which can no longer be left to our future generation.” (White House Address)

<sup>12</sup> “Keep in mind all those people around us who are trapped in a cycle of poverty. They too need to be given hope. The fight against poverty and hunger must be fought constantly and on many fronts, especially in its causes.” (Address to Congress)

<sup>13</sup> “We, the people of this continent, are not fearful of foreigners, because most of us were once foreigners. I say this to you as the son of immigrants, knowing that so many of you are also descended from immigrants... Building a nation calls us to recognize that we must constantly relate to others, rejecting a mindset of hostility in order to adopt one of reciprocal subsidiarity, in a constant effort to do our best.” (Address to Congress)

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<sup>14</sup> “Our goal is not to amass information or to satisfy curiosity, but rather to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it.” (*Laudato Si’* 19)

<sup>15</sup> “It goes without saying that part of this great effort is the creation and distribution of wealth. The right use of natural resources, the proper application of technology and the harnessing of the spirit of enterprise are essential elements of an economy which seeks to be modern, inclusive and sustainable.” (Address to Congress)

<sup>16</sup> “The challenges facing us today call for a renewal of that spirit of cooperation, which has accomplished so much good throughout the history of the United States. The complexity, the gravity and the urgency of these challenges demand that we pool our resources and talents, and resolve to support one another, with respect for our differences and our convictions of conscience.” (Address to Congress)

<sup>17</sup> “Our world is increasingly a place of violent conflict, hatred and brutal atrocities, committed even in the name of God and of religion. We know that no religion is immune from forms of individual delusion or ideological extremism. This means that we must be especially attentive to every type of fundamentalism, whether religious or of any other kind. A delicate balance is required to combat violence perpetrated in the name of a religion, an ideology or an economic system, while also safeguarding religious freedom, intellectual freedom and individual freedoms.” (Address to Congress)

<sup>18</sup> “Mr. President, I find it encouraging that you are proposing an initiative for reducing air pollution.” (White House Address)

<sup>19</sup> “Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded.” (*Laudato Si’* 19)

<sup>20</sup> “Our world is facing a refugee crisis of a magnitude not seen since the Second World War...We must not be taken aback by their numbers, but rather view them as persons, seeing their faces and listening to their stories, trying to respond as best we can to their situation. To respond in a way which is always humane, just and fraternal.” (Address to Congress)

<sup>21</sup> “War always does grave harm to the environment and to the cultural riches of peoples, risks which are magnified when one considers nuclear arms and biological weapons... Politics must pay greater attention to foreseeing new conflicts and addressing the causes which can lead to them.” (*Laudato Si’* 57)

<sup>22</sup> “This conviction has led me, from the beginning of my ministry, to advocate at different levels for the global abolition of the death penalty. I am convinced that this way is the best, since every life is sacred, every human person is endowed with an inalienable dignity, and society can only benefit from the rehabilitation of those convicted of crimes.” (Address to Congress)

<sup>23</sup> “Love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world. Love for society and commitment to the common good are outstanding expressions of a charity which affects not only relationships between individuals but also ‘macro-relationships, social, economic and political ones’ [*Caritas in Veritate*, Pope Benedict XVI]... In this framework, along with the importance of little everyday gestures, social love moves us to devise larger strategies to halt environmental degradation and to encourage a ‘culture of care’ which permeates all of society.” (*Laudato Si’* 231)

<sup>24</sup> “But there is another temptation which we must especially guard against: the simplistic reductionism which sees only good or evil; or, if you will, the righteous and sinners. The contemporary world, with its open wounds which affect so many of our brothers and sisters, demands that we confront every form of polarization which would divide it into these two camps. We know that in the attempt to be freed of the enemy without, we can be tempted to feed the enemy within.” (Address to Congress)