

MEET THE YOUNG ADVOCATES LEADERSHIP LAB

-



Inside this Issue The Bus is Back!

> **2024** Vote Our Future Tour



Grounded in Gospel values and the Catholic social justice tradition, NETWORK transforms our society by shaping federal policies that achieve racial, economic, and social justice; serve the common good; and honor the dignity of all.

NETWORK LOBBY FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Addie Lorraine Walker, SSND Alejandra Marroquin Alice Gerdeman, CDP Amari Verastegui Anne Li Bridget Bearss, RSCJ Catherine Ferguson, SNJM (Chair) Janetta Hammock Kateri Kerwin (Vice Chair) Leslye Colvin Michelle Scott Robbie Pentecost, OSF (Secretary) Sarah Marin (Treasurer)

NETWORK ADVOCATES FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Addie Lorraine Walker, SSND Alejandra Marroquin Alice Gerdeman, CDP (Secretary) Amari Verastegui Anne Li Bridget Bearss, RSCJ Catherine Ferguson, SNJM Janetta Hammock (Vice Chair) Kateri Kerwin Leslye Colvin (Chair) Michelle Scott (Treasurer) Robbie Pentecost, OSF Sarah Marin

STAFF

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM Don Clemmer, Elissa Hackerson, Colin Martinez Longmore, Virginia Schilder

DEVELOPMENT & MEMBERSHIP TEAM Maggie Brevig, Gloria Guisbert, William Hawk, June Martin, Kristin Schol

> LEADERSHIP TEAM Joan Neal, Mary Novak, Erin Zubal, OSU

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS TEAM

Ronnate Asirwatham, Margie Clark, JoAnn Goedert, IVC, Laura Peralta-Schulte, Jarrett Smith, Christian Watkins

GRASSROOTS MOBILIZATION TEAM Catherine Gillette, Eilis McCulloh, HM, Ralph McCloud, Meg Olson, Chelsea Puckett, Emily TeKolste, SP, Tom Volkert, IVC

> Managing Editor: Don Clemmer Designer: Maggie Powell

CONTENTS

3 ENVISIONING

Embracing the Great 'Y'ALL' *Justice Demands a Future — and a Politics — That Includes Everyone*

4 Quotables

5 LEAD STORY

Welcome, Y.A.L.L.

NETWORK's Young Advocates Leadership Lab Promotes Political Engagement

8 NUNS ON THE BUS – AND FRIENDS!

Map of NETWORK's 2024 Vote Our Future Bus Tour

10 SPIRITED SISTERS

The Many Over Money NETWORK's Election Year Training Series Shows the Power of People Uniting

11 VOTER EDUCATION NETWORK's 2024 Equally Sacred Checklist

12 OUR SPIRIT-FILLED NETWORK The Rest of Y.A.L.L. and Our Latest Work

14 VOTE OUR FUTURE CAMPAIGN Check out NETWORK's Relational Voting Tool!

ON THE COVER

Baylee Fingerhut, a sophomore at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, is one of 10 students in NETWORK's new Young Advocates Leadership Lab (Y.A.L.L.). Y.A.L.L. serves as a training space for faithful young adults to build the skills needed to be advocates for justice in the world today. Photo: Min. Christian Watkins

Articles in NETWORK Connection may be reprinted. Please include the following on the reprints: "Reprinted by permission of NETWORK, advocates for justice inspired by Catholic sisters, www. networklobby.org." Please send us a copy of the reprinted article.

Third Quarter—Vol. 52, No. 3, NETWORK Connection ISSN 0199-5723. Published quarterly by NETWORK, phone: 202-347-9797, fax: 202-347-9864, email: connection@networklobby.org, www. networklobby.org. Annual dues: \$50/\$60 international. Postmaster: Send address changes to NETWORK, 820 First Street NE, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20002-8065.





envisioning

Embracing the Great 'Y'ALL'

Justice Demands a Future —and a Politics —That Includes Everyone

ames Joyce famously described the Catholic Church as "Here comes everybody!" It's a joyfully loud and messy image for a universal people of faith making their way through history, toward the kin-dom of God. At World Youth Day in Portu-

gal last year, Pope Francis echoed this sentiment when he described the church as being for "itodos todos todos!" — "Everyone, everyone, everyone!"

At NETWORK, we embrace this inclusive vision, not only for church but for all of society. In our voter education efforts,

for instance, we call on people to "Vote our Future," to embrace a vision of a future for everyone, where all people — no matter their race, country of origin, or socioeconomic background — have what they need to flourish and participate in our society.

While the beauty of Catholic Social Teaching provides a helpful light as we navigate toward a more

just and equitable tomorrow, unfortunately, not all faith leaders devote their witness to promoting these values. The message many people receive in the pews is that they need to defend themselves against cultural "threats," usually posed by greater acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community in our society.

Sadly, some politicians stand to gain from people of faith believing they have to defend an exclusionary worldview, whether against the LGBTQ+ community or against immigrants and other marginalized people, in order to be faithful. It amounts to a brazen bet that people will do the wrong thing if it benefits them.

But not all faith leaders allow themselves to be cynically co-opted. Pope Francis, for instance, made a powerful statement about the role of faith in a complex, changing world when, on December 18 of last year, he approved a blessing for same-sex couples. While many noted that this did not change Catholic teaching on marriage and sexuality, the point is that the pope modeled how to engage in affirmative acceptance and inclusion, rooted in human dignity, rather than treating human beings as threats.

r voter education efforts, see its teachings as endors Whether we worship in San Francisco, Detroit, or the Rio Grande Valley, Catholics have everything to lose if we silence our moral witness and buy into appeals to fear and scapegoating at the expense of solidarity and democracy.

This is especially urgent in the U.S., where the dominant position of the church has been to rebuff every legal protection for LGBTQ+ people as a threat to religious freedom. So much action on behalf of solidarity and the common good could be unleashed in the

world if people of faith no longer feared for their identity or see themselves as culturally under siege.

A group who understands this on a very deep level is young adults. While many have given up on the church because they see its teachings as endorsing intolerance, others have stayed

> and connected the dots of care for creation, care for immigrants, care for the whole human family, and the witness of faith. And so NET-WORK, seeking to support and grow this energy, has engaged a cohort of college students this year to participate in our new Young Advocates Leadership Lab — or Y.A.L.L.

> Like "Here comes everybody" and "¡todos todos todos!" Y.A.L.L.

promotes an inclusive vision of faith at work in the public square. Y.A.L.L. leaders will engage in peer civic education on their campuses, engage in peer civic education on their campuses through activities such as voter registration drives and deep canvassing. These young leaders will also collaborate on NETWORK's social media outreach to young Catholics. In an election year that has already proven so volatile, these young leaders are rays of hope for the future of U.S. democracy — and for the role of faith in preserving it.

Whether we worship in San Francisco, Detroit, or the Rio Grande Valley, Catholics have everything to lose if we silence our moral witness and buy into appeals to fear and scapegoating at the expense of solidarity and democracy. The foundation of a multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural pluralistic democratic society should be an appreciation for how all people are interconnected, with our wellbeing and fates intertwined. In this challenging moment in history, people of faith have an opportunity to draw on these values and build our society anew.



Mary J. Novak is NETWORK's Executive Director.

Notable Quotables

What justice-seekers have been saying this quarter

"It is a testament to the collective efforts of immigrants and all those who work tirelessly to ensure that everyone, regardless of their background, has the freedom to live in a welcoming and inclusive community."

— Ronnate Asirwatham, NETWORK Government Relations Director, on being named one of Washingtonian magazine's 500 most influential people in Washington a third year in a row, May 3

"The passing of Citizens United v. FEC in 2010, which ruled that corporations are people, the fact that parts of the 1965 Voting Rights Act have been gutted the past several years, and the fact that the top five richest people in the United States hold trillions of dollars of wealth are examples of how fragile our democracy is."

— Meg Olson, NETWORK Grassroots Mobilization Director, in an article in U.S. Catholic magazine, April 23 "[W]e we will not be able to organize for any movement if we are facing the jailing of dissidents. This is the kind of authoritarianism ... we have to take it seriously."

— Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (N.Y.-14), in an April 18 interview with Medhi Hassan

"That is madness, sheer madness, to close the border and leave [migrants] there. That is madness." — Pope Francis, 60 Minutes interview, May 19

> "These politicians are showing that they're just puppets for corporate America, and they don't give a damn about workingclass people. They don't care about the workers being left behind even though the workers are the ones who elect them."

> — Shawn Fain, President of United Auto Workers, in an article in the Guardian, April 22

"Young voters are a generation that are reading the signs of the times correctly. And the sign of the time is 'Todos, todos, todos' [Everyone, everyone, everyone]."

— Colin Martinez Longmore, at an April 10 gathering sponsored by the Georgetown Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life

"As a nursing student, I am also driven to advocacy because of my passion for healthcare equity and equal healthcare access. I hope to serve ... my community, which starts with raising awareness, educating, and advocating for a more engaged society."

— Ishara Baez, Y.A.L.L. student, in University of Mount St. Vincent in the Bronx, N.Y., May 1

"Faith is a driving force that compels us to act in the face of injustice. It provides the moral foundation and the resilience needed to continue advocating for what is right, even when the path is challenging."

— Mary J. Novak, NETWORK Executive Director, in an interview with Living City magazine, May 7



Ishara Baez, a student in the Class of 2025 at the University of Mount St. Vincent in the Bronx, N.Y., is among the 10 students participating in NETWORK's Young Advocates Leadership Lab (Y.A.L.L.). The new program seeks to build leadership and advocacy skills in college students.

Welcome, Y.A.L.L.

Young Advocates Leadership Lab Promotes Political Engagement on College Campuses

BY JANE SUTTER

hen Baylee Fingerhut, a sophomore at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, read about a new program seeking college students to become advocates for social justice, she was intrigued.

"I thought how amazing it would be to be a part of that, not just something that would help me grow my professional skills and help me network but to be part of something so impactful, like this inaugural group of youth leaders who want to go out and advocate and make change," she says.

Fingerhut is part of the first cohort of 10 students in NET-WORK's Young Advocates Leadership Lab. Y.A.L.L. is a leadership and advocacy skills development program for college students, serving as a training space for faithful young adults to build the skills needed to be advocates for justice.

(continued on page 6)



Katie Crump, left, and Anna Kopsick of the University of Dayton pose with the 2024 Equally Sacred Checklist, the central resource of NETWORK's voter education campaign. Crump, Class of 2025, is a member of NETWORK's Y.A.L.L. cohort.



Chelsea Puckett of NETWORK assists a student during an on-campus voter registration event at the University of Mount Mary in Milwaukee. Y.A.L.L. events on campuses will focus on voter awareness and engagement.

Building Up Y.A.L.L.

Over the years, NETWORK has offered training for college students, but Y.A.L.L. offers a new, deeper level of engagement with young justice seekers. It's a natural outgrowth of NETWORK's vision to mobilize a diverse national movement of justice-seekers.

For Fingerhut, a public policy major, the opportunity to participate in Y.A.L.L. has given her the opportunity to both advocate for others and "do the grassroots, boots-on-the-ground work" such as registering fellow students to vote and having conversations with students about why their vote matters, she says.

Choosing the 10 students for the inaugural class of Y.A.L.L. was a competitive process as 60 students applied, according to Chelsea Puckett, NETWORK's Grassroots Mobilization Outreach and Education Specialist, who acts as the convenor and staff liaison for the program.

Recruitment involved outreach to Catholic Sisters, advocates, and colleges where NETWORK had a relationship, as well as utilizing online tools for making professional connections with college students.

"We wanted to build a cohort of people to adhere to NETWORK's mission of working for justice and equity for all people," Puckett says.

Diversity of all kinds was an important factor. Not all the students are Catholic, but as part of the interview process, students were asked how their values, faith, or morals drive their advocacy work.

"We wanted to be inclusive of all different belief systems and backgrounds," Puckett says.

Y.A.L.L. runs in two 13-week phases. The first phase took place from March into May, followed by a summer hiatus. The second phase will run from August into November. Each student commits to five hours per week and receives a competitive stipend.

Engaging With College Students

With Y.A.L.L's focus in 2024 being voter voter education and mobilization, in the spring, students hosted voter registration drives on their campuses, staffing tables in prominent campus locations, such as outside a student center or inside a cafeteria. They used the opportunity to introduce the 2024 Equally Sacred Checklist, NETWORK's multi-issue voter education resource to their peers.

At Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., Y.A.L.L. leader Kaila Crouch and Puckett helped students check online to see if they were registered to vote.

"It's something you don't really think about until, unfortunately, it might be too late," Crouch says. She notes that students who registered to vote at the Y.A.L.L. table seemed relieved and made comments such as, "Wow. I'm happy this is checked off on my list of things to do."

"We wanted to build a cohort of people to adhere to NETWORK's mission of working for justice and equity for all people."



CHELSEA PUCKETT



Imani McClammy Class of 2026, Barry University, Miami

"Your life is full of political issues, even if you don't think so." IMANI MCCLAMMY

Crouch, who will return to campus in the fall to study for an MBA, and Puckett also visited a leadership and development class of senior students to discuss multi-issue voting.

Y.A.L.L. participant Imani McClammy, majoring in political science at Barry University in Miami, Fla., enjoyed teaching fellow students about multi-issue voting, quoting a line she learned from Puckett: "We're multi-issue voters because we live multi-issue lives." She told students how true that is. "I care about housing, I care about education, I care about minimum wage. These are all things that impact our lives."

Participating in the Y.A.L.L. program has been revelatory, several participants say. Theresa Lindberg, a freshman majoring in English literature and Spanish at Mt. Mary University in Milwaukee, Wis., says she discovered in talking with students that "some people just are not going to be interested in voting."

McClammy says she believes the biggest challenge on her campus is explaining to students why voting matters. When she hears students say, "I don't like politics," she tries to explain: "Your life is full of political issues, even if you don't think so." McClammy researches laws or potential legislation to use as examples of what affects students' lives, and she encourages them to find out what legislation the candidates support.

Puckett says the on-campus experience has been revealing. "Students are busy people," she notes. "To hear what issues matter to them based on what they're studying or their lived experiences was really insightful as we continue this work with young people."

Breaking Through the Noise

A key part of the Y.A.L.L. initiative is the weekly virtual trainings offered to the participants and conducted mostly by NETWORK staff. For the spring effort, students participated in a variety of workshops, including how to conduct a voter registration drive, multi-issue voting, breaking through the election noise, deep canvassing and door knocking, and appropriate use of social media.

One key training was on how to have difficult conversations with fellow students who have different viewpoints. The Y.A.L.L. participants did roleplay to practice, Puckett says.

Lindberg says those exercises were valuable "because we live in such a polarized country." McClammy agreed. "Doing that workshop helped me more in having those difficult conversations and always finding a way to tie it back to Y.A.L.L.'s mission—being multi-issue voters."

Y.A.L.L. participants also spent time in the spring laying the groundwork for

campus initiatives to take place in the fall. That included forming partnerships with appropriate student groups, campus ministries, and political science professors. The core mission for the fall will be get-out-the-vote efforts, so students are planning voter registration drives at orientation events for freshmen and transfer students. They'll also knock on doors in student housing and off-campus apartments.

Y.A.L.L. students will inquire if students have a plan to vote and if they have a way to get to the polls. For those hesitant to get involved in the democratic process, students will use their conversational skills to try to convince them to do so.

Puckett notes that NETWORK's involvement on campuses has been met with a warm welcome. "We plan for these to be sustainable relationships over many, many years," she says. A new cohort will be selected for 2025, Puckett says.

Fingerhut, at St. Joseph's University, says she already had some background in Catholic social justice, having learned about it in classes, but she had never seen a tie-in with politics. Participating in Y.A.L.L. has been "transformative to see it come to life on a stage such as a federal election."

Jane Sutter is a freelance journalist based in Rochester, N.Y. and is part of the NETWORK Advocates team in New York State.



MEET OF THE REST OF Y.A.L.L.

Meet the other students in NETWORK's Young Advocates Leadership Lab in the Spirit-Filled Network section (*page 12*).



Sep 30 Philadelphia, PA

- Oct 1 Allentown & Scranton, PA
- Oct 2 Brentwood & Oceanside, NY
- Oct 3 New Haven, CT
- Oct 4 Binghamton/Ithaca, NY
- Oct 5 Pittsburgh PA & Cleveland, OH
- Oct 6 Detroit, MI
- Oct 7 Gary, IN & Milwaukee, WI
- Oct 8-9 Chicago, IL
- Oct 13 Tucson & Phoenix, AZ
- Oct 14-15 Las Vegas, NV
- Oct 16 Bakersfield, CA
- Oct 17 Modesto & Redwood City, CA
- Oct 18 San Francisco, CA

The Nuns on the Bus are back for our first in-person tour in six years!

But it's not just Catholic Sisters anymore. In preparation for the Synod, Pope Francis instructed all Catholics to "enlarge the space of your tent," to be more inclusive and welcoming. We have taken this to heart in creating our 2024 bus tour and have decided to have a mix of Catholic sisters and our interfaith and secular partners on the bus.

On this tour, our theme is Vote Our Future: Everyone Thrives. No Exceptions. When we exercise our freedom to participate in a vibrant democracy, we promote freedoms that improves the lives of all people: our freedom to be healthy, our freedom to care for ourselves and our families, our freedom from harm, our freedom to live on a healthy planet, and our freedom to live in a welcoming country that values human rights.

 \bullet

 \mathbf{O}

 (\bullet)

 (\bullet)

Some people in our politics attack these freedoms and seek to exclude or discourage as many people as possible from participating in our political process. But when we all come together, we know we have the power to overcome divisions and obstruction and create a future that is more just, equitable, and free.

As Pope Francis says, "The only future worth building includes everyone!"

2024 VOTE OUR FUTURE TOUR

Oc

0.

Everyone Thrives. No Exceptions.

The Bus will be on the road from September 30–October 18.

ENDS

Come see us at an event near you! nunsonthebus.org



The Many Over the Money

NETWORK's Non-Partisan Voter Education Series Shows the Power of People Uniting

From Indiana to California, from New Jersey to Texas, NETWORK Advocates across the nation want to build a world where everyone thrives, no exceptions. And they're showing up. My colleagues and I have been privileged to work with wonderful advocates — NETWORK mainstays and new faces alike — who have attended online and in-person trainings to build skills and explore a variety of ways they can talk about the issues that matter to them and help their neighbors participate in our democracy this election.

We know we're facing some big obstacles: a few ultrawealthy people are pouring big money into organizations trying to divide us. over issues like immigration and rights for people in the LGBTQ+ community. They know that when we're working against each other, we can't see the ways they're working to get big tax breaks for themselves and their ultra-wealthy friends — leaving the rest of us with few resources and struggling communities.

This election year, we're coming together from across the country and across our many differences of race, age, and gender, to build the skills we need to bring our nation together around our shared values.

In April and May, the NETWORK team hosted two rounds of a four-week online training series. We talked about the many issues that matter to us when we consider candidates. We explored ways to talk about our issues that can help others see them as important — both in interpersonal conversations and in the ways that we contribute to the public narratives in our nation. Lastly, we explored other ways to get involved — everything from serving as poll workers to hosting ballot research parties.

We've also been hosting in-person trainings. These threehour interactive workshops cover some of the content from the online trainings and give participants opportunities to practice and strengthen their skills even further.

Attendees have been thrilled by the skill-building opportunities and energized by the hope of being in community. Alice from California said, "Your sessions give direct, usable, doable actions for anyone who wants it. When we apply the information, results happen." Sr. Mary Jo from Wisconsin said, "I wanted more hope in regards to this election. You provided it. Thank you."

Participants practiced talking about our visions for a future in which everyone thrives and learned about the policies that are helping us get there — recent victories like the largest investment in climate change prevention in U.S. history through



Sr. Emily TeKolste, SP, center, visits St. Gertrude Catholic Church in Chicago for a NETWORK election year training on April 14. Also pictured, left to right, are Vic and Mary Doucette from NETWORK's Chicago team, Ken Brucks, and Sr. Eilis McCulloh, HM.

the Inflation Reduction Act and the largest cut in child poverty in over 50 years through the American Rescue Plan.

They learned skills like deep listening and storytelling that help reshape people's perspectives in one-on-one conversations and transformative narrative-building through the Race Class Narrative framework. Finally, they explored ways to get going on the ground, and many have signed up to be poll workers, committed to hosting voter registration drives, and much more.

Like NETWORK has always done, we approach this election year with hope and welcome. From Nuns on the Bus, to the 2022 Pope Francis Voter Tour, to everyday conversations with policymakers in Congress, NETWORK staff and NETWORK advocates are transforming our politics by boldly declaring that all people deserve to have what they need to thrive. And we can get there when we go together — when we overcome the attempts to divide us by race, gender, and creed — and declare that all people are made in the image and likeness of God, who came that we "may have life and have it more abundantly."

Like Alice and Sr. Mary Jo, we know that hope is an active virtue, and when we take action together, the many can defeat the money.

This is how we show up for each other, creating a world where nobody goes hungry, where people have access to safe and reliable shelter, good-paying jobs, and the ability to contribute to their communities. Together, we will vote our future so that everyone thrives — no exceptions!

Sr. Emily TeKolste, SP, is NETWORK's Grassroots Mobilization Coordinator.

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." —Po



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.

our spirit-filled network



Listen to an interview with Baylee on NETWORK's Just Politics podcast!



The Rest of Y.A.L.L.

Meet the other students in NETWORK's Young Advocates Leadership Lab

- 1. Theresa Lindberg: Class of 2027, Mount Mary University, Milwaukee
- 2. Ben Dickison: Class of 2026, Xavier University, Cincinnati
- 3. Jorden (JC) Clay: Class of 2026, Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA
- 4. Baylee Fingerhut: Class of 2026, St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia
- 5. Jonathan Alcantara: Class of 2027, Marquette University, Milwaukee
- 6. Kaila Crouch: Class of 2025, Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA
- 7. Maryam Qoda: Class of 2025, University of Detroit Mercy, Detroit

our spirit-filled network



Left: Jarrett Smith of NETWORK's Government Relations Team (right) meets with Rep. Brendan Boyle (PA-02) at a gathering in Washington, D.C. on April 29.

and Tracy Abler (Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation Coordinator at Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes) participate in NETWORK's Racial Wealth and Income Gap (RWIG) on May 14, during a two-day advocacy training at the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual

Team (second from right), meet with Rep. Zoe Lofgren (CA-18) at her Cali



NETWORK Board Member Sr. Alice speaks with Sr. RSM at a voter by the Sisters of



Left: Members and friends of Ohio Sisters Justice Network gathered on April 5 for an in-person meeting to set their direction for the upcoming year. Those gathered represented 10 congregations of women religious from across the state of Ohio and six partner organizations.

Right: A delegation from REPAM, a project of the Catholic Church in the Amazon region, backed by the Latin American Bishops' Conference, CELAM, visits staff of the House Ways and Means Committee on April 24. REPAM's work includes amplifying the voices of Indigenous leaders protecting their land from mining, oil and gas exploration, and industrial agriculture that results in massive deforestation. NETWORK helped coordinate the visit.



Spread the word!

Make sure friends & family make a plan



You know about NETWORK's non-partisan voter engagement and education campaign, Vote Our Future, but what about your friends and family? Let them know that Vote Our Future equips Catholic voters-and all people who advocate for the common good—to engage in this year's election. By helping friends and family make their voting plan, YOU take action to increase voter turnout and spread the multi-issue voter message!

Name three (3) people that you'll contact about a voting plan and get the names of three (3) people that your contacts will reach out to as well. Be sure to follow-up with them as the election draws closer.

Things you may share in your conversations:

- Will you vote early in-person, or by mail? If voting on Election Day, do you know where your polling place is and what IDs you need?
- Tell them: Be sure to check your registration, even if you think you are registered.
- Share the the Equally Sacred Checklist

Friend & family name	Friend & family contact info	The first names of the three friends they'll remind to vote *	— * You've asked your friends and
e.g. Aunt Claire	555-677-0000	Francis, Anthony, John	family members to vote, now have them do the same thing with their network! Give them a tracker so that they can make their voting "team." Be sure to check in with them about their three people.
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

networkadvocates.org

iCorre la voz! Asegúrate de que tus amigos y familiares hagan un plan de votación.

Usted sabe sobre la campaña de compromiso y educación electoral no partidista de NETWORK, Vote Our Future, pero ¿qué hay de sus amigos y familiares? Déjeles saber que Vote Our Future prepara a los votantes católicos, y a todas las personas que abogan por el bien común, para participar en las elecciones de este año. ¡Al ayudar a sus amigos y familiares a hacer su plan de votación, USTED toma acción para aumentar la participación electoral y difundir el mensaje de votantes de múltiples temas!

Cómo usar el rastreador: Nombre a tres (3) personas a las que contactará sobre un plan de votación y obtenga los nombres de tres (3) personas a las que sus contactos también contactarán. Asegúrese de hacer seguimiento con ellos a medida que se acercan las elecciones.

Cosas que puede compartir en sus conversaciones:

- ¿Va a votar temprano en persona o por correo? Si va a votar el día de las elecciones, ¿lo programará en su calendario?
- Dígales: Asegúrese de verificar su registro, incluso si sabe que está registrado.

Comparta la Lista de Temas Igualmente Sagrados.

	o amigo/a	de amigos y familiares	quienes recordarán que voten *	* Le ha pedido a sus amigos y
	e.g. Tía Clara	555-677-0000	María, José, Diego	familiares que voten, jahora
1				pídales que hagan lo mismo con su red! Déles un rastreador
2				para que puedan formar
3				su "equipo" de votación.
4				Asegúrese de hacer segui- miento con ellos sobre sus tres
5				personas.
6				

Nombre de familia Información de contacto Los nombres de pila de los tres amigos a

Justice-Seekers

Your IRA Can Make a Difference

Did you know?

You can designate your IRA distributions to support our political ministry!

Are you 70½ years of age or older and own a Traditional IRA account? If so, you may be able to make charitable contributions up to \$105,000 per tax year directly from your IRA to charitable 501(c)(3) organizations like **NETWORK Advocates**, without claiming increased income for federal taxes. If you have a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), your Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) can count toward your RMD and help fulfill your obligation to withdraw funds from your IRA.

IRA Administrators often need the following information to make your gift: NAME: NETWORK Education Program TAX ID NUMBER: 52-1307764 ADDRESS: 820 First St NE Suite 350, Washington, DC 20002

You may also choose to designate NETWORK Advocates as the beneficiary of your IRA. If you do so, please let us know so we can recognize and honor your generosity.

Questions?

You should consult a tax advisor or other professional regarding your specific financial needs. For assistance or more information about making a gift from your IRA to NETWORK Advocates, please contact:

Maggie Brevig, Development Director mbrevig@networklobby.org (202) 601-7864



820 First Street NE, Suite 350 Washington, DC 20002 phone: 202-347-9797 fax: 202-347-9864 www.networklobby.org www.networkadvocates.org NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 6962 WASHINGTON, DC



Find hope. Study the issues. Get equipped. Tell your friends.

Check out NETWORK's VOTE OUR FUTURE voter education campaign, and find ways to take action for a more just, equitable, and inclusive future today!

