

## Our Values: Economic Security

*Catholic teaching promotes the dignity of work and the rights of all workers, whether Black, Brown, or white. Together, we will create an inclusive economy that places people over profit and ensures that we all have what we need to thrive.*

### Guarantee paid leave and childcare support for families

#### Current Reality

- In 2022, 11.5% of people in the U.S. lived in poverty, including one in eight women and one in six children.
- Wealthy corporations and their supporters in Congress have blocked efforts to provide paid leave and childcare support, and COVID-era grants for childcare supports have expired.
- Meanwhile, childcare costs have soared by over 200% in the last three decades.
- With no nationally guaranteed paid leave, 87% of workers can't take off time to care for a sick child.
- More than 60% of workers have no paid medical leave, having to choose between pay and time to heal.

#### Wins

- The Biden administration's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) temporarily reduced child poverty by expanding the Child Tax Credit (CTC) to all low-income families, benefiting nearly 60 million children.
  - The CTC reduced child poverty by nearly half in 2021!
- The ARPA also provided temporary paid leave and increased childcare tax credits, increasing hard-working parents' time and ability to care for their children.

#### Vision

*spread these words!*

- **Together, we will elect leaders who will support childcare for hardworking families** and pass a permanent, universal, fully refundable monthly CTC, so that they can take care of their kids.
- **Together, we will ensure time to care for ourselves and our loved ones when we get sick**, with paid family and medical leave for all workers.

### Ensure a living wage and protect workers' rights

#### Current Reality

- Wealthy corporations and their protectors in Congress don't want to pay workers a living wage, so they block efforts that would raise the minimum wage and protect workers' freedom to join unions.
- As a result, the federal minimum wage, which still applies in 20 states, has been \$7.25/hour since 2009.
- A third of our workforce (44 million workers) makes less than \$17/hour, including 41% of working Black women and nearly 50% of working Latina women.

#### Wins

- The Biden administration has required a minimum wage of \$15/hour for federal contractors' workers and increased the number of workers eligible for overtime protections.
- The Inflation Reduction Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Act, and CHIPS Act created 14 million new, good-paying union jobs (including 800,000 jobs in manufacturing and 210,000 in clean energy).

#### Vision

*spread these words!*

- **Together, we will pass the Raise the Wage Act to increase the minimum wage nationally to \$17 by 2028**, so that an estimated 28 million workers can earn a dignified wage and provide for their families.
- **Together, we will strengthen workers' freedom to bargain for fair pay** and end right to work laws by passing the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act.

## Make housing affordable

### Current Reality

- Millions of us face housing insecurity that threatens us with eviction and homelessness. In 2021, nearly half of all renters and 23% of all homeowners spent more than a third of their income on housing.
- The wealthy have dominated the housing market, with private equity firms buying up single-family homes. Their protectors in Congress block funding for affordable housing.
- Housing insecurity falls hardest on Black, Brown, and Indigenous people and families, because of decades of housing discrimination, as well as LGBTQ+ youth, the elderly, and survivors of domestic violence.

### Wins

- The Biden administration has allocated \$4.35 billion in funding to build and preserve affordable rental homes and make homeownership a reality for thousands of families.

### Vision

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- **Together, we will make the basic right of stable housing a reality for all of us**, by ensuring that Congress passes the Biden administration's requests for increased funding for affordable housing, first-generation homebuyers, rental assistance, and people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

## Invest in free education

### Current Reality

- Millions of people in the U.S.—Black, Brown, and white—have been saddled with staggering student loan debt. This is a barrier to economic stability for entire generations, and for our nation as a whole.

### Wins

- After the Supreme Court blocked the Biden administration's robust student loan forgiveness program in 2023, the Administration instead used executive action to reduce debt for 4 million borrowers.
- The Biden administration has invested over \$7 billion in Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

### Vision

*spread these words!*

- **Together, we will elect leaders who will pass legislation to make 2 years of community college free**, expand Pell grants, and invest in work training and apprenticeship programs.
- We will ensure all children receive quality education by maintaining funding for Head Start programs that serve 800,000 children, and Title 1 funding for schools that serve 26 million low-income children.