



NETWORK CONNECTION

SECOND QUARTER 2022

CELEBRATING SISTER-SPIRIT OUR 50-YEAR JUSTICE JOURNEY



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NETWORK—a Catholic leader in the global movement for justice and peace—educates, organizes, and lobbies for economic and social transformation.

NETWORK LOBBY FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE

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- John Noble (Vice Chair)
- Bridget Flood (Treasurer)
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- Anne Li
- Sarah Marin
- Alejandra Marroquin
- Jennifer Owens-Jofré
- Ann Scholz, SSND
- Michelle Scott

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ON THE COVER

Attendees of the 1976 Legislative Seminar hold the NETWORK banner on the steps of the Capitol Building. Staff hold the NETWORK banner at a rally for immigrant rights outside the Capitol, October 2017.

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NETWORK at 50 Years

The World Needs a Better Kind of Politics More Than Ever

Right before I started at NETWORK, right after Easter last year, I reread Pope Francis' encyclical *Frutelli Tutti* (2020) with new eyes. You see, during the prior four months, I had gotten to know the NETWORK community through the extensive interview process. I was particularly struck by Chapter 5, "A Better Kind of Politics," where he writes: "While one person can help another by providing something to eat, the politician creates a job for that other person, and thus practices a lofty form of charity that ennobles his or her political activity." When practiced in this manner, Pope Francis acknowledges politics as a "lofty vocation and one of the highest forms of charity, inasmuch as it seeks the common good."

This higher form of love, exercised through concrete action in federal policy, has been the way and the goal of the Sisters at NETWORK for 50 years, and as I read, I truly wondered if Pope Francis had studied our foundresses before writing Chapter 5. The legacy of service these Sisters have built is one that we at NETWORK are honored to carry into the future.

In the 50 years since our founding, much has changed geopolitically, in U.S. politics, and in the Church. NETWORK has changed as well, from a staff of two sisters working in borrowed offices on a shoe-string budget to a respected lobby with a base of 100,000 religious and lay members and supporters in all 50 states with a staff of over 20, including five Catholic Sisters (more than we had at the beginning), lay Catholics, and clergy from other traditions.

Over these five decades we have had 350 sisters on NETWORK's Board and staff. In that same period, we have trained, equipped, and nourished tens of thousands of sisters and justice seekers to practice a better kind of politics. NETWORK has helped launch and mentor many other faith-based groups, and encouraged Sister's and men's congregations as they started their own political ministries in Washington as well.

Today, with the numbers of Sisters involved in direct ministries being significantly less, NETWORK is finding additional ways to be connected to those of us most in need.



Mary J. Novak is executive director of NETWORK

We work in coalitions with other groups, including some faith-based and, critically, with groups of people from our communities directly impacted by the federal policies NETWORK is working to change.

Like so many of the women's religious communities today, we are asking the hard questions about our founding: We were an all-white Catholic lobby

of Sisters when we were founded. And while our staff and board are far more diverse today, we know we have much to do with NETWORK's own racial reckoning.

What has kept NETWORK going is our deep spiritual roots in the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching. These roots have kept NETWORK committed to centering human dignity and the common good out of a preferential love of those of us in greatest need, and they offer a framework for why NETWORK is deeply Catholic.

Pope Paul VI's apostolic letter, *Octogesima Adveniens*, generally known as "A Call to Action," and the Synod of Bishops' "Justice in the World" both appeared in the year of NETWORK's founding. Both stressed the importance of political activity in achieving a more just world order, through education and political activism. In fact, the bishops called "action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world" a "constitutive dimension of preaching the Gospel."

These teachings and the founding of NETWORK were also a direct result of the missionary renewal sparked throughout the Church by the Second Vatican Council. The embrace and accompaniment of the whole world by the whole church — laity, religious, and clergy alike — articulated at Vatican II is something U.S. women religious have courageously and increasingly put into practice.

The challenge to the rest of us is to follow their lead and trajectory as we go into the future. With war and other threats to human dignity destabilizing and clouding our world, the living out of the Vatican II call is now more urgent and prophetic than ever in whatever context we find ourselves, and for NETWORK, this includes the political ministry that creates the conditions for a Better Kind of Politics. ☀️

No Future Without Real Justice

NETWORK's 50th Is Opportunity for Reflection and Transformation



Joan Neal is
NETWORK's first
Deputy Executive
Director and Chief
Equity Officer

Today in the U.S., many Black and Brown people struggle for the right to live without constant threats to their safety and well-being. Economic stratification has reached dizzying and destabilizing levels. Voices of white supremacy and Christian nationalism grow louder and more brazen in our public conversation. Our climate appears to have tipped into permanent crisis. And democracy faces assaults in numerous forms, from restrictive voting laws here in the States to Russia's military assault on its neighbor Ukraine.

NETWORK's 50th anniversary comes at a time of tremendous upheaval. But it would be inaccurate to say that any of these realities are new. For the most part, they have simmered beneath the surface for many years, only recently breaking through anew in the public consciousness. And no matter how painful this is, we at NETWORK think this development is also a kind of good news.

As a political ministry dedicated to building up the common good through the lens of Catholic Social Justice, NETWORK has a duty to model what commitment to racial justice looks like against a backdrop such as the one in this country, where it is so sorely lacking.

With these problems laid bare, we can make decisions that plot our course for the years ahead and know that we are responding with clarity and resolve to the signs of the times. This clarity is a major reason why racial justice has become a central focus of our work.

As a political ministry dedicated to building up the common good through the lens of Catholic Social Justice, NETWORK has a duty to model what commitment to racial justice looks like against a backdrop such as the one in this coun-

try, where it is so sorely lacking. We have sought to do this publicly, for instance with our recent event, "White Supremacy in American Christianity" with Father Bryan Massingale of Fordham University, Dr. Robert P. Jones of the Public Religion Research Institute, and Dr. Marcia Chatelain of Georgetown University, which explored and confronted the long legacy of racism in the structures, history, and expression of white Christian faith communities in this country.

We have also pursued racial justice internally, with our staff regularly naming and pursuing racial justice accountability goals. We embrace the challenge to avoid white saviorism and tokenism, and speaking on behalf of communities rather than engaging them directly. And we make space for the voices of people who have been pushed to the margins by the unjust systems of our society.

We recognize that the structures of systemic racism represent a deep, unhealed wound in U.S. history and that reparatory justice is necessary for this country to find reconciliation for what Cardinal Wilton Gregory and others call America's original sin. Until we contend with this, we shouldn't be surprised that so many people have lost trust in both our religious and secular institutions.

Meanwhile, as NETWORK completes our strategic planning process, we recognize the opportunities in our midst to grow in profound ways. We see issues including racial justice and defense of democracy crying out for a credible Catholic voice on Capitol Hill. We see the rising generations of young people, as well as millions of Baby Boomers entering retirement, who are fired up to promote the common good on immigration policy, care for creation, and economic solidarity.

NETWORK is well positioned to build a new national faith narrative. Through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching and carrying the charisms of congregations of women religious, we can contribute to the healing of our society and ignite structural change in federal policies. Despite the discouraging signs of our times, justice is already ablaze in the hearts of so many people. And as our foundresses understood 50 years ago, it takes a NETWORK to make change come alive. ☀️



Women including Sisters Pat Sieman OP (second from left), Carol Coston OP (middle), and Maureen Kelleher RSHM (second from right). Unknown 1972-73

Action of the Spirit

Sisters Answered the Call of the Times in Founding NETWORK

By Dr. Mara D. Rutten

When journalist Ruth Dean of the Washington Star News visited the offices of NETWORK in 1974, she was surprised to find the staff of Catholic Sisters — “not in uniform” — busy planning their third legislative seminar focusing on taxes, criminal justice, and campaign reform. After two years, the sisters’ engagement in “political ministry” was still newsworthy.

It had been less than 10 years since American sisters had, in response to the Second Vatican Council’s call for renewal, shed their distinctive dress and entered into new ministries. This brought them into close contact with the social sins of racism, sexism, and indifference, and showed them the need for systemic change.

The founding of NETWORK sought to address these systemic injustices directly in a political ministry of lobbying at the federal level. Its spark stemmed directly from the movements flowing through the church in the council’s wake, and the sisters who participated in the founding still recall the power of that moment.

Hearing the call

When Pope Paul VI issued “A Call to Action” and the Synod of Bishops released “Justice in the World” in 1971, stating that “politics are a demanding manner ... of living the Christian commitment to the service of others,” and that “action on behalf of justice” was “a constitutive dimension of preaching the Gospel,” the sisters heard it as their own call to action.

Activist Sr. Marjorie Tuite, OP, who trained organizers at the National Urban Training Center in Chicago, seized the moment. Tuite, who believed that there was “no way to do political work unless you are networked to others doing the same,” raised the possibility of organizing women religious at a Catholic Committee on Urban Ministry (CCUM) meeting in October of that year.

She discussed the issue with Sr. Mary Reilly, RSM, Sr. Claire Dugan, SSJ, and Msgr. Geno Baroni. Baroni, who served in the

(continued on page 6)



Trinity Washington University, the site of the December 1971 meeting, when NETWORK was founded, and many Legislative Seminars in subsequent years.
Credit: flickr.com/Mr.TinMD

U.S. Catholic Conference’s urban task force, had tried to organize a lobby of priests but had gotten nowhere. They decided to sponsor a three-day workshop at Trinity College in Washington, D.C. on the subject that December.

The invitation went out to known activist sisters, but news of the meeting spread, and most of the attendees found their way through word of mouth. Sr. Carol Coston, OP, who would go on to be NETWORK’s first director, did not receive an invitation but tagged along from Florida with Sr. Kathy Gannon, OP.



Sr. Carol Coston, OP

Student Sr. Elizabeth Morancy, RSM, went because she was told that “you’d like this meeting. They’re going to talk about ‘Call to Action.’”

Sr. Teresina Grasso, SP, and Sr. Peggy Neal lucked into invitations when Tuite stopped by each of their ministries.

“She cast a wide net, and I got caught in the net,” Neal remembered. “So I put out the word that I had a car and a few others joined me,” though “no one with good sense leaves Kansas in a car in December.”

Sr. Carton Phelan, the provincial of the Clinton Franciscans, gave Sr. Marilyn Huegerich permission because she thought it would be a good idea for the young sister to see Washington, then decided to join her, making her one of four provincials attending the meeting.

“Everyone thought she brought me along,” Huegerich recounted. “But *she* came with *me!*”

Eventually 47 sisters from 21 states arrived at Trinity. Among them were social workers, teachers, students, congregational leaders, and advocates for civil rights, women’s rights, and anti-poverty programs.

For some of the younger sisters, it was their first exposure to the work.

Sr. Angela Fitzpatrick, OSU, was “in awe. I was only 25 years old and not too involved yet, but I was aware that these women were very serious about what they were about.”

Huegerich concurred. “I was so impressed with the women, how competent and diverse their experiences. My eyes were opened, being from Iowa.”

Getting organized

The organizers wasted no time. Neal remembered her worldview shifting as she listened to Baroni’s emotional opening speech about the need to affect change through political involvement.

“He put the human element in what I heard on the news. ... I got a kick in the seat,” recalled Grasso. She remembers them discussing “how many lobbied for their own issues, like big business, and there was no voice for the poor, or justice issues in general, or working people whose voices went unheard.”

Tuite urged them on, declaring that it was “time for sisters to move from service to change ... out of the convents and into the streets and the halls of Congress!”

To be effective, however, the sisters needed to know about more than just the issues; they needed to understand how to do

political work. On Saturday, they went to Capitol Hill to learn about the legislative process with Senator Edward M. Kennedy's staff, then about the "Black agenda" for the 1970s with James Gibson of the Potomac Institute.

*We could be a dangerous force.
We could really affect change,
and change the world.*

That afternoon, a number of speakers went deeper into how to affect change in the federal government. All of this was very inspiring to the newly-initiated; Neal remembered the only woman who came to speak, Anona Teska, of the League of Women Voters, in particular.

"I wanted to join!" she said. "And I did!"

By Sunday morning, the sisters were enthusiastic about the idea of political ministry but had trouble coming to a consensus. Then Sr. Audrey Miller, CDP, made a suggestion which not only impacted the direction of the meeting, but of the organization that would be born of it. For two days, she had been sensitizing the other sisters to the fact that the conference facilitators, as well as most of the speakers, were men.

"I wonder what others feel, talking about organizing women religious," she said, "when the only leadership thus far has come from white males."

Jerry Ernst, who worked with Baroni and had been facilitating, handed her the chalk. "Come on up and take over," he said.

Becoming a force

Immediately, the tone of the meeting changed, and a mood of confidence emerged.

"Her intervention became a galvanizing event and helped us find our collective voice," Coston later wrote. "Once the women took over the meeting, we said, what is it that we really want to do? It seemed clear to me that a consensus was building that we should go ahead and take the step toward a national network."

Coston offered a motion to "form a political action network of information and communication." The motion passed.

Miller then appointed a steering committee to meet in January to set up a network, establish contacts with existing organizations, explore possibilities of types of political action, plan a weekend and summer workshop to involve other sisters in political activity, and, in order to accomplish any of those things, identify and screen people for permanent staff.



NETWORK Foundresses (left to right) Liz Morancy, Sr. Carol Coston, OP, and Sr. Mary Hayes, SSNDdeN gathered at "Spark of the Spirit," December 2021.

"As I recall," Coston later wrote, "the main criterion for serving on the committee, besides interest, was having the finances to get back to Washington."

Finances were no small concern for a group who held a vow of poverty in common. Phelan, who had "tagged along" with Huegerich, suggested they take up a collection, which yielded \$147. Each sister then pledged to raise \$50 for the cause, and were creative about it: Upon their return home, Mercy Sisters Liz Morancy and Mary Reilly worked at a local department store for the rest of the Christmas season to raise their share.

They had answered the call to action. These women who, less than a decade earlier, wore habits and ministered in congregational or diocesan ministries had come together and formed the nation's first Catholic social justice lobby. In the years to come, the sisters of NETWORK and the clergy, brothers, and lay men and women who would join their ranks as members, interns, associates, and staff would continue to take "action on behalf of justice" by educating, organizing, and lobbying.

Sr. Angela Fitzpatrick, reflecting back on the last 50 years, gave voice to the spirit of that 1971 meeting and the work still being done today. "If we really became united," she said, "we could be a dangerous force. We could really affect change, and change the world."

Mara D. Rutten PhD is a candidate with the Sisters of Mercy and NETWORK's historian.

Our 50-Year JUSTICE JOURNEY

The Progressive Spirit of Vatican II

On October 11, 1962, the first session of the Second Vatican Council convened, after three years of preparation. Over the next five years, the Council continued to meet under the leadership of both Pope John XXIII and Pope Paul VI.

Mary Luke Tobin, SL, who later served as president of the NETWORK Board of Directors, was invited to attend the third and the final sessions of the Second Vatican Council in Rome in 1964 and 1965 along with a small group of women.

The documents and subsequent letters that came out of the Council were historic and transformational, including *Gaudium et Spes*, which called people to bring justice and faith into the world.



1970s

1971 ▶ The documents *Call to Action* and *Justice in the World* are published. They state: politics “are a demanding manner” of Christian service and “a constitutive dimension of preaching the Gospel,” laying the foundation for NETWORK’s political ministry.

December 1971 ▶ Forty-seven women religious gather at Trinity College in Washington, D.C. to discuss the call to work for justice through the political system and decide to form NETWORK, the first Catholic social justice lobby in the United States.

January 1972 ▶ The NETWORK steering committee holds its first meeting; they agree that Carol Coston, OP would serve as NETWORK’s first director.

April 1972 ▶ Carol Coston, OP begins leading NETWORK, providing “political ministry” in Washington. Four sisters later join Carol on NETWORK staff.

March 1972 ▶ The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) passes the Senate and is sent to the states for ratification. NETWORK will lobby for the ERA’s passage for the next ten years.

August-September 1972 ▶ NETWORK publishes its first newsletter, holds an issue referendum, and trains 150 participants in political ministry at the first Legislative Seminar.

August 1974 ▶ Nixon resigns; Gerald Ford becomes President.

January 1974 ▶ NETWORK publishes its first Congressional voting record of the First Session of the 93rd Congress. The scorecard included 14 House votes and 14 Senate votes.

1975 ▶ Ann (Sampson) Dunn is hired, NETWORK’s first non-Sister on staff, and the NETWORK Educational Program is incorporated.

April 1975 ▶ The U.S.-Vietnam war ends.

November 1976 ▶ Jimmy Carter elected President



Pope Paul VI and Archbishop Oscar Romero

August-October 1978 ▶ Pope Paul VI dies; his successor, John Paul I, dies 33 days after his election. Cardinal Karol Józef Wojtyła of Krakow, Poland is elected pope and takes the name John Paul II.

1979 ▶ Three non-Sisters, Marie (Grosso) Dennis, Barbara Ann Stolz, and Josephine Zamora, are elected to NETWORK’s Board for the first time.

October 1979 ▶ During Pope John Paul II’s visit to the U.S., LCWR president Theresa Kane, RSM asks the Pope to open all church ministries to women in her welcome speech; fifty-three sisters stand in protest during his remarks.

1990s

NETWORK's Summer Legislative Seminars

During the summers, NETWORK organized legislative seminars in Washington to train advocates for justice, attracting hundreds of participants from across the country. These trainings not only taught participants about the legislative process and NETWORK's policy areas, but were also critical for building relationships between justice-seekers in the field and NETWORK staff. Over the years, the Legislative Seminars drew speakers and participants such as Sen. Ted Kennedy, Rep. Shirley Chisholm, Rep. Barbara Mikulski, Rev. Henri Nouwen, Rosemary Radford Ruether, Margaret Farley, RSM, and Fr. Robert Drinan.



Rev. Henri Nouwen participating in the 1976 NETWORK Legislative Seminar, Washington, D.C.



Senator Ted Kennedy speaking to a NETWORK Legislative Seminar, Washington, D.C. (undated)

1992 ▶ Kathy Thornton, RSM succeeds Nancy Sylvester, IHM as the third director of NETWORK.

January 1993 ▶ The Family and Medical Leave Act, which NETWORK strongly supported, passes in Congress and is signed into law by President Clinton.

1993 ▶ NETWORK lobbyist Sr. Catherine Pinkerton, CSJ and staff work with First Lady Hillary Clinton and Sen. Ted Kennedy to craft comprehensive healthcare legislation. The bid to reform health care was unsuccessful.



1994 ▶ The North American Free Trade Agreement goes into effect, having long-term effects on the economies of the signatories.

1994 ▶ The Republican party introduces the "Contract with America" ahead of the midterm elections. Provisions include shrinking the federal government, lowering taxes, and welfare reform.

1980s

1980 ▶ Archbishop Óscar Romero is assassinated and four American churchwomen are murdered in El Salvador. In response, NETWORK invites leaders of congregations with missionaries in Central America to testify about the conditions there on Capitol Hill.

November 1980 ▶ Ronald Reagan elected President.

Responding to the Reagan Administration



During the eight-year Reagan presidency, NETWORK lobbyists, organizers, and members worked to minimize the deep cuts to human needs programs, increases in military spending, and tax cuts championed by President Reagan. A 1984 poem by NETWORK member Alma Nieland illustrates the NETWORK community's motivation: "Let me stop the wheels of oppression from grinding so hard as they otherwise would."

1982 ▶ Nancy Sylvester, IHM succeeds Carol Coston, OP as NETWORK's second leader.

June 1982 ▶ The ERA fails to receive the necessary states for ratification.

November 1983 ▶ The Vatican's 1983 Code of Canon Law takes effect, prohibiting religious men and women from serving in public office, affecting members of NETWORK, including foundress Elizabeth Morancy.

A Difficult Choice

When the Vatican prohibited religious men and women from serving in public office, two NETWORK Board Members were forced to make a painful choice: Elizabeth Morancy, a Rhode Island state Representative, and Arlene Violet, a candidate for Rhode Island State Attorney General. Both resigned from the Sisters of Mercy to serve in those positions. Previously, NETWORK with LCWR and other groups, had issued an Epistle in support of former Mercy Sister Agnes Mary Mansour, who had been forced to choose between her ministry as director of the Michigan Department of Social Services and her community by the Vatican.

November 1988 ▶ George H.W. Bush elected President.

October 1989 ▶ NETWORK coordinates the lobby days for Housing NOW!, a program sponsored by 175 organizations. More than 250,000 people participate in the week of briefings, press conferences, panel discussions, prayer services, benefit concerts, marches, and rallies.

August 1996 ▶ President Clinton signs the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act into law, dramatically cutting the number of people eligible for federal aid.



Protesting President Clinton's "Welfare Reform"

As President Clinton signed this bill into law, NETWORK staff marched in protest outside the White House gates. NETWORK joined Pax Christi and several religious congregations to found the Welfare Reform Watch Project to collect multi-year statistics and anecdotal information about the law's impact on low-income families. NETWORK also provided testimony to Congress and published several reports that drew media attention.



September 2001 ▶ The U.S. is attacked by Al-Qaeda; the next month, the U.S. invades Afghanistan. NETWORK vocally opposes military action and seeks a peaceful resolution. Federal military spending increases, further threatening funding for beleaguered domestic programs.

2003 ▶ Maureen Fenlon, OP begins serving as interim NETWORK director.

2003 ▶ The U.S. invades Iraq and topples the regime of Saddam Hussein.

2004 ▶ Simone Campbell, SSS becomes NETWORK's fourth executive director.

April 2005 ▶ Pope John Paul II's death ends his nearly 27-year papacy, Pope Benedict XVI is elected.

January 2007 ▶ Nancy Pelosi becomes Speaker of the House of Representatives, becoming the first woman to serve in this position.

2008 ▶ Years of deregulation of the financial sector causes an economic crisis and the Great Recession.

August 2008 ▶ NETWORK lobbyist Catherine Pinkerton, CSJ, gives the benediction during the Democratic Convention.



November 2008 ▶ Barack Obama is elected President, becoming the first African-American president.

2010s

March 2010 ▶ The Affordable Care Act passes the Senate after extensive debate. While the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops opposed the ACA's final passage, NETWORK urged Congress to vote yes to extend to healthcare coverage to millions of people.



April 2012 ▶ The Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) issues a Doctrinal Assessment of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious. In response, Catholic Sisters receive an outpouring of support.

June 2012 ▶ NETWORK's first "Nuns on the Bus" tour kicks off in Iowa.

Driving for Justice with Nuns on the Bus

In 2012, NETWORK organized the first "Nuns on the Bus" tour. Since then, NETWORK has launched six more tours in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, and 2020. Through Nuns on the Bus, NETWORK has mobilized hundreds of thousands of people across the country to address important justice issues including voting, healthcare, immigration, and tax policy.



2000s

January 2001 ▶ Carol Coston, OP receives the Presidential Citizens Medal, the country's second highest civilian honor, from President Clinton for her work shaping federal public policy.

January 2001 ▶ George W. Bush becomes President.

2001 ▶ Michael Culliton becomes the NETWORK Education Coordinator, NETWORK's first man on staff.

March 2013 ▶ Pope Benedict XVI resigns; Pope Francis is elected.



June 2013 ▶ The Senate passes the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act, a comprehensive immigration reform that NETWORK strongly supported, in a bipartisan vote. The bill is never brought to a vote in the House.

November 2016 ▶ Donald Trump is elected President.

Responding to the Trump Administration

Following Donald Trump's 2017 inauguration, NETWORK activated members for advocacy at an unprecedented scale to protect people and programs threatened by the President's agenda. This included a 21-hour vigil on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol to defend access to health care and the arrest of 70+ Catholic Sisters and lay people inside the Longworth Senate Office Building to protest immoral immigration policies.



2019 ▶ Throughout the year, NETWORK organized 17 rural roundtables in 16 states, meeting and listening to a diverse group of 250 people living in rural parts of the country. Their hopes and hardships were published in a report titled "Raising Rural Voices" to help guide federal policy decisions.



2020s

2020 ▶ COVID-19 is named a global pandemic and goes on to exacerbate inequality, health disparities, racial injustice, food insecurity, the lack of affordable housing, and other economic and social issues in the U.S. and globally. In the United States, the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin leads to widespread protests and conversation about the endurance of anti-Black racism in U.S. politics, economy, and society.

August 2020 ▶ Ahead of the 2020 presidential election, NETWORK publicly calls on voters not to re-elect Donald Trump. Countering the idea that Catholics must vote solely on one political issue, NETWORK publishes the "equally sacred" scorecard, using Pope Francis' words naming concern about economic inequality, racism, and the situation of migrants as "equally sacred" to defense of the unborn.

November 2020 ▶ Joe Biden is elected President, becoming the country's second Catholic president. Kamala Harris makes history as the first Black, South Asian Woman to be Vice President.



2021 ▶ Mary J. Novak becomes the first non-Sister to serve as NETWORK's executive director in April 2021. In July, Joan F. Neal joins the Executive Team as NETWORK's first deputy executive director and chief equity officer.

July-August 2021 ▶ In the face of restrictive voter laws sweeping the country, Sisters and justice-seekers organize "Team Democracy" events in six states, calling on their Senators to pass legislation that protects the right to vote.





Prophet of a Future

Sr. Catherine Pinkerton's Legacy Shapes

BY JULIA MORRIS

Her longtime friend Sr. Sallie Latkovich, CSJ recalls that Catherine's early support of comprehensive healthcare legislation came from that experience, noting that Pinkerton would often warn her congregation that "healthcare programs would not always be available; that's what jumpstarted her work to make them stronger."

In 1984, Pinkerton joined NETWORK's staff. She would say she saw Christ in the Gospels as a justice-seeker working against systems of inequality. In her ministry, she then turned to NETWORK aiming to model herself after Christ's justice-seeking action by advocating and developing policies around the common good, especially working to ensure that all people living in the U.S. had access to healthcare and housing.

When efforts to craft comprehensive healthcare legislation faltered in the 1990s, Pinkerton became a passionate advocate for the Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which provides health coverage for children in families that earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but not enough to afford health insurance. Her perseverance and lobbying for comprehensive healthcare reform paved the way for the Affordable Care Act.

Her work was and is cutting edge. In many of the news articles written about her, Pinkerton is regarded as "radical." In the 1999 book on Pinkerton, "The Genesis and Gestation of a Justice Journey," author Jacqueline Magness asked her how she might feel about this word.

Pinkerton "smiled and exclaimed, 'Radical ... yes ... back to the root. I like it!'"

Noted for her ability to analyze a policy issues with speed and precision, Sr. Ann Curtis, RSM described Pinkerton as a "woman of vision ... led by a vision of what God desires of us —justice, truth, and a dignified life."

Pinkerton herself attributed this ability to the process that her community calls "conversion":

"You see it is a three-part process: (a) intellectual contemplation 'fed with new insights and ideas and challenges'; (b) reflective conversion, 'the process of making the truth one's own and changing attitudes and behavior to accord with new insights'; and (c) the conversion of action, 'the going forth to create with others the structures, processes, and systems that are authentic for what is life-giving.'"

One way to evaluate efforts in social justice is to look at the number of people impacted or helped. For Sr. Catherine Pinkerton, CSJ, this number is upwards of 13.6 million, or the growing number of people signed up for healthcare exchanges through the Affordable Care Act, a number that has reached record highs this year.

Wide-reaching, sweeping reform rarely happens without committed advocates. Guided by her faith and her congregation, the Sisters of St. Joseph, Pinkerton diligently served at NETWORK as a lobbyist for 24 years, pushing for legislation that promoted the common good. Her legacy leaves a colossal imprint not only on NETWORK, but on Capitol Hill and federal policies that touch the lives of millions of people.

Radical ministry

An early advocate for national comprehensive healthcare reform, Sr. Catherine Pinkerton lobbied the Clinton administration a decade before Barack Obama was even in the Senate. As the leader of her congregation, she had sought that every sick and elderly sister be cared for.

NETWORK's Justice Journey Today



Sister-Spirit personified

Grounded in the spiritual legacy of Sisters like Catherine Pinkerton, NETWORK pursues Gospel justice with joy, persistence, and a feisty spirit. Former NETWORK Director Sr. Kathy Thornton, RSM, described Pinkerton as someone who won the respect and friendship of the political powers of her time:

“[She has] the ably tease Bill Clinton, confer with Hillary Clinton, and chide Ted Kennedy, who, when he does not see Catherine for a while, admits to missing her.”

Pinkerton's longtime friend, Ohio Representative Marcy Kaptur, who entered Congress the year before Pinkerton joined NETWORK, remembers her “infectious giggle and great sense of humor. She walked thousands of miles through the winding corridors of Congress, back and forth from House to Senate, a highly respected, indeed revered, lobbyist.”

“Even when she felt strongly about an issue, she always treated the other with respect,” notes Latkovich. “She treated them as a person first, not as their opinion.”

In 2008, Pinkerton delivered the benediction at the Democratic National Convention. In 2012, she left Washington and returned home to her community in Cleveland. Never

The Sr. Catherine Pinkerton Legacy Award

The Sr. Catherine Pinkerton Legacy Award is one of four awards that NETWORK has created to celebrate our 50th anniversary. This award goes to a social justice advocate — both people and organizations — who have spent their lives working to change structures that cause poverty and inequality and who have placed the needs of people at the economic margins at the center of their advocacy. The inaugural recipients of this award are the first five executive directors of NETWORK and the Friends Committee on National Legislation, a longtime NETWORK partner and collaborator. See profiles of these recipients on Page 18.



Sr. Catherine (left) and NETWORK lobbyist Sr. Anne Curtis, RSM (right) meet with Rep. Bernie Sanders (I-VT).

one to be complacent, she stayed active and engaged with her many friends and anyone who might come to her for her guidance.

Kaptur recalls, “She listened intently to the nightly news, laughed a lot, never missing a beat even when in her 90s. She remained a trusted counselor and beloved friend throughout her life. Sr. Catherine was a trailblazer for faith-filled people, and surely women, for generations to come.”

Pinkerton died in 2015, yet the impact of her work continues to grow touching lives across the country. A well-known prayer ends with the line: “We are prophets of a future not our own.” Sr. Catherine Pinkerton truly lived this prayer.

Julia Morris is NETWORK's Policy Communications Associate.



To Be a Bridge Builder

Tom Volkert forges human connections for Catholic Social Justice

Tom Volkert reached out to NETWORK in 2019 with an interest in starting an Advocates team in Philadelphia, where he's lived since the late 1990s. A native of Wisconsin, Tom turned to NETWORK advocacy in retirement and, over the last three years, has grown team membership and participation to over 15 active members, developed a committee structure to focus team work, and focused on anti-racism, immigration, and voting rights.

Tom is the inaugural recipient of NETWORK's Bridge Builder Award, which honors a member of a NETWORK Advocates team who connects Sister-Spirit with the needs of a metropolitan area and works effectively for social change.

Tom is married and has two adult children. He shared with *Connection* about his experience working to build up the common good by rooting his community in solidarity:

What inspired you to start an Advocates team?

I retired as a hospice social worker in one of the economically disadvantaged areas of Philadelphia. One of the things I used to think about while employed was how I wished I could spend more time addressing some of the roots of the problems the people I visited were dealing with. Retirement offered that opportunity, and NETWORK offered a concrete way to work for changes in the system.

What is the importance of relationship in your work?

Our group started meeting at a little office on Chestnut Hill College Campus in Philadelphia, thanks to Sr. Mary Elizabeth Clark. From the beginning I was impressed with the people I met. Their stories, their desire to help people, their gifts and their dogged determination to change things made me realize that a lot of this effort is about encouraging people to use their heart and skills to connect with elected representatives and the general public in order to share the wisdom of the Catholic Social Teaching.

When we gather at our monthly meetings, we celebrate the letters to the editor that a member got into the paper or the meeting some members had with a Congressional staff. Even when we are disappointed if some legislation doesn't get passed or a Senator won't listen to us, it is our monthly gath-

erings that lift our spirits and remind us that this is what we are meant to do, and sooner or later change will come.

What role has racial justice had in how you approach your work?

I grew up during the '60s in Milwaukee, where there was of racial tension. I lived in a neighborhood that rapidly changed as white people moved out. I was a teen and angry because no one seemed to be able address racial issues, and everyone seemed to suffer. The parish, which was the center of the neighborhood, wasn't able, in that moment, to help people see the real issues or do anything about it, even though there were good people trying. That memory of the parish became seared into my mind and shaped my work in parishes from then on. I went to the seminary in the '70s, and if I learned nothing else I remembered the 1971 statement of the bishops: "Action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world fully appear to us as a constitutive dimension of the preaching of the Gospel."

How do you see your work relating to parish life?

I think that every parish has people like the people in our Grassroots Advocates Group. They are people who are attracted to the priorities that NETWORK espouses and want to know more about them or what to do locally about them. Our group supports people by telling them they are not alone in their hunger to do something on behalf of justice and gives them something to do like visit a representative or write a letter to the editor or even come to an action.

Wouldn't it be great if we were able to encourage every parish to have a NETWORK social justice group? It may be a small group, but it could educate parishioners on Catholic justice issues and give them concrete ways to contact their elected officials. I think that justice work needs a community to live.



Social Poets, Writing the Future

In Young Activists, NETWORK Sees What Pope Francis Sees

BY DON CLEMMER

On his 2015 trip to Bolivia, Pope Francis addressed social activists gathered there for the second World Meeting of Popular Movements. He told them that “popular movements play an essential role, not only by making demands and lodging protests, but even more basically by being creative. You are social poets: creators of work, builders of housing, producers of food, above all for people left behind by the world market.”

The following year, addressing these same groups gathered in Rome, he added that the popular movements “are sowers of change, promoters of a process involving millions of actions, great and small, creatively intertwined like words in a poem.”

In his 2021 address to the same gathering, he began simply, “Dear social poets.”

Pope Francis’ messages to the Popular Movements have included some of the most striking rhetoric of his pontificate, decrying demagogues who exploit people’s anger and fear to demonize immigrants and other people pushed to the margins of society. In 2021, he said that protests following the murder of George Floyd most reminded him of the Good Samaritan in the world today.

NETWORK joins Pope Francis in centering the importance of young activists in the work of writing a better future for the world, one that dismantles systemic racism, roots the economy in solidarity, cultivates inclusive community, and transforms politics. So for NETWORK’s 50th anniversary, we honor four young activists as “Social Poets.” The four inaugural recipients of this award write with their lives the challenges and transformative potential that the decades ahead hold for those pursuing justice in the name of the Gospel.

Taylor McGee

A faith-based justice-seeker studying at St. Edward’s University in Austin, Taylor McGee has a gift for convening people from different backgrounds in faith contexts and using the encounter to open up old or familiar ideas about God and the world in new ways. As a faith and culture leader for St. Edward’s campus ministry, McGee, 20, has led an Earth Day event featuring discussion of Pope Francis’ *Laudato Si’*; a fish fry that invited local Black-owned businesses to campus and featured Black gospel music; and — her favorite — a virtual art exhibit, “Mirroring Mary,” which curated images of Mary from the various cultures represented on the St. Edward’s campus.

“I’ve been so blessed to have a great community given to me and understanding the similarities and differences within that community,” says McGee, adding, “If this is a community that I’m trying to serve, then I need to be in that community.”

A Black woman and a cradle Catholic who has had to step back to see the eurocentrism of her own experience of church, she has majored in religious studies because, in part,

“As a Black woman, you have to have that credibility.”

She credits Pope Francis for being explicit in his naming of problems in society, since working around problems without naming them leaves room for people to mute them.

“I’m still in the South, and I know how things are,” she notes. But still she sees “Do everything in love” as what it is to be a social poet. This means “to be explicit in love and to not condemn and to not condemn people for their unlearning,” which can be challenging in activist spaces. But God invites everyone.



Taylor McGee (left) attends the fish fry she organized as part of her campus ministry work at St. Edward’s University in Austin.



Ivonne Ramirez

Ivonne Ramirez uses education and advocacy in her efforts to change the hearts and minds of fellow Catholics regarding the plight of DACA

recipients like herself living in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

“If you are a devout Catholic, you should be with us, not against us,” Ramirez, 27, says of the need for the Church to be in solidarity with immigrants, especially young people who do not have documented status in the U.S. “These are your neighbors. ... We need to teach people what is DACA and what it looks like in our parish.”

Ramirez is a catechist at Our Lady of Guadalupe, a pre-

“We’re not dreaming.

We’re actually working for something.”

dominantly Spanish speaking low to moderate income parish in Ferguson, Missouri, and also chaperones teen events and is a frequent speaker at parish teen retreats. Her mentor and role model is Sr. Cathy Doherty, SSND.

“We’re starting a movement. We’re slowing and surely starting to see,” Ramirez says of her efforts to educate priests and other church leaders to address immigration with their communities. This includes a recent meeting of several DACA re-



Ivonne Ramirez (right) and other DACA recipients meet with St. Louis Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski earlier this year.

cipients with St. Louis Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski to share their stories. As DACA recipients can’t vote, she especially wants to communicate to people that they have power to help their neighbors and that who they elect matters.

Ramirez also says the popular term for DACA recipients – “Dreamers” – is a misnomer.

“We’re not dreaming. We’re actually working for something,” she says.

Marie Kenyon, director of peace and justice for the archdiocese, agrees:

“Ivonne is a breath of hope to Hispanic youth in the parish, especially those without permanent legal status. Over the years she has found her voice in expressing and witnessing immigration issues to the church and the region. Her energy, creativity and ways of expressing her faith are just what is needed in our church today. ... She is a true servant leader!”

Christian Soenen

Christian Soenen has learned the weight of what it means to accompany people on their immigration journey, most recently as an education and advocacy intern at the Kino Border Institute in Nogales, Arizona.

“You think that you understand the kinds of things that people are going through,” says Soenen, 23. “I thought I knew what was going on, and then I got to the border. I personally felt very disarmed. ... You get very invested in the present, in the people who are suffering presently.”



“Liberation is the fundamental focus of everything that is prophetic and Gospel.”

A graduate of University of Texas at Austin who has engaged in immigration advocacy since high school, Soenen’s experiences at the border confronted him with the crushing impact of a broken system. During his time at Kino, Sr. Tracey Horan, SP, served as a collaborator and guide.

“He demonstrates a sincere humility in his awareness both of what he has to offer the movement toward dignified migration and that his efforts are part of something bigger that is beyond him. I have been particularly impressed by his growth in identifying and empowering migrant leadership,” Horan says of Soenen.

“The moment you step away [from the border] it is so easy to forget the weight of that,” Soenen says of the end of his time with Kino. “I don’t think we can allow ourselves to forget.” The border experience has shown him how many dehumanizing structures people acquiesce to on a daily basis, and he adds, “I don’t know how you break out that.”

Despite the hopelessness of the circumstances, Soenen does see the Gospel alive in the struggles of migrant people and those who serve them.

“Liberation is the fundamental focus of everything that is prophetic and Gospel,” he says. And the life and death of Jesus shows where God identifies: “We have had the ultimate symbolic example, and we’re still waiting for the world to realize what that means.”

Jennifer Koo

Jennifer Koo first learned about Jesus when she was 17, in a high school history class. Now the only Christian in her multi-faith family of Southeast Asian immigrants, Koo, 24, says her newfound faith “offered me some hope and comfort in trying to grapple with all the inequity and brokenness that I was seeing all around me.”



Koo grapples with human brokenness all the time through her work for RESULTS, an anti-poverty advocacy organization, which she serves from Connecticut. As Koo discovered grassroots advocacy as a young adult, she also discovered a vocabulary to describe the oppression she’d experienced growing up, which “reminded me that I’m not alone in this journey towards justice.”

But while she’s not alone, she recognizes that the journey is different for people of color, people with disabilities, and others.

“I take this approach of seeing the people inside the advocate. We are not advocacy tools. We are people with our own lives.”

“The stakes of the work that we are involved in, it’s not the same for everyone,” she notes. “This work can be incredibly exhausting and painful and tiring, and it can be very exhausting to feel as though you are being tokenized in a movement.”

One of Koo’s numerous endeavors has been to create self-care resources for activists.

“I take this approach of seeing the people inside the advocate. We are not advocacy tools. We are people with our own lives,” she says.

Upon learning that she is one of four Social Poets honored by NETWORK, Koo’s first response was to learn about the organization, which led her to being “overjoyed to see that this kind of space exists.” This includes NETWORK’s commitment to growing as a multicultural, anti-racist organization that prioritizes looking at the person within the advocate. She also appreciates NETWORK giving her “help to contribute in making waves in this movement.”

Each Social Poet is receiving \$500 and will participate in the Advocates Training as part of NETWORK’s 50th anniversary celebration.

Don Clemmer is NETWORK’s content and editorial manager.



Dear Social Poets...

Seeing you reminds me that we are not condemned to repeat or to build a future based on exclusion and inequality, rejection or indifference.

— Pope Francis, October 16, 2021

Justice Ablaze Honorees



NETWORK Bestows Inaugural Sr. Catherine Pinkerton Legacy Award on Our First Five Executive Directors and the Friends Committee on National Legislation

Sr. Carol Coston, OP (left photo, center) has been with NETWORK since the beginning. A natural leader, she is the founding director of both NETWORK and Partners for the Common Good, an award-winning alternative investment fund. In January 2001, President Bill Clinton presented the Presidential Citizens Medal, the nation's second highest civilian honor, to her, the first Catholic sister ever to receive this award.

Sr. Nancy Sylvester, IHM (left photo, right) over the course of her 15 years at NETWORK, truly shaped the organization into what it is today. In 1978 she introduced to staff the labor union song, "Bread and Roses." Today, she is the founder and director of the Institute for Communal Contemplation and Dialogue. She served in leadership of her own religious community, the Sister Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Monroe, Michigan, as well as in the presidency of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

Sr. Kathy Thornton, RSM (left photo, left) has deep Midwest roots, coming from Waterloo, Iowa, and from 1969-76 serving as associate director of religious education

for the Archdiocese of Dubuque. For 10 years, she served as the administrator and co-founder of the Mercy Spiritual Center in Cedar Rapids while serving on the Sisters of Mercy Central Governing Board. She became National Coordinator of NETWORK in 1992.

Sr. Maureen Fenlon, OP (center photo) served NETWORK during the Bush Administration. A Dominican from Adrian, Michigan, she brought her then-33 years of experience with social change organizations to NETWORK.

Sr. Simone Campbell, SSS (right photo) served as executive director of NETWORK for 17 years, from 2004-2021. She is a religious leader, attorney, and poet with extensive experience in public policy and advocacy for systemic change. In Washington, she lobbied on issues of economic justice, immigration reform, and healthcare. She is a noted speaker and educator on public policy issues. She led six cross-country "Nuns on the Bus" trips, focused on economic justice, comprehensive immigration reform, and voter turnout.



Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) was founded in 1943 by members of the Religious Society of Friends and is a national, nonpartisan Quaker organization. Combining both pragmatism and a strong understanding of the world they want to create, FCNL works with a team of skilled lobbyists in Washington and organizes a grassroots network of tens of thousands of people. FCNL focuses their work advancing peace, justice, and environmental stewardship by meeting with policymakers and advocates, as well as bringing the two together

to create opportunities for both groups to foster collaboration.

Before NETWORK was able to function as a self-sustaining lobby, the sisters needed advice on how to be a social justice lobby. From that time, Friends Committee on National Legislation has served as mentor, ally, and friend, through 10 presidential administrations. There is not a more fitting organization and partner to receive the inaugural Sr. Catherine Pinkerton Legacy Award, as FCNL embodies the same tenacious, thoughtful, and joyful spirit.



NETWORK Honors the National Black Sisters' Conference With Inaugural Distinguished Justice-Seeker Award

The National Black Sisters' Conference (NBSC) was founded in 1968 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania under the inspiration and direction of then-Sr. Martin de Porres Grey, RSM (now Patricia Grey, Ph.D.) and with the support and hospitality of the bishop of Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Sisters of Mercy. Sister Martin de Porres was the only woman religious to attend the first National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus (NBCCC) in Detroit in April 1968. She left with a heightened awareness of the pressing demand for Black Women Religious to address themselves to the urgent need for the Catholic Church in America to develop greater relevancy for Black people, or risk losing its credibility as a manifestation of Christian unity.

She called Black women religious together for a first, now historic meeting in the summer of 1968. Over 150 Black Catholic women religious from 79 different national and international congregations gathered at Carlow College in Pittsburgh and elected Sr. Martin de Porres to serve as their president. A board of directors was also elected, and plans for legal incorporation of the National Black Sisters' Conference were made.

Today, NBSC is a national organization of more than 150 Black Catholic women religious and associates who form a strong and cohesive voice in support of the dignity and rights of women of color, in creating mentoring and support systems for Black women in religious formation, in educating the African American family, and in confronting the sin of racism.

As Black women religious who stand at the forefront of the struggle for justice, the National Black Sisters' Conference em-

bodies the bold, radical, joyful, and inclusive energy that motivated NETWORK's founding and continues to animate the work of NETWORK today. Their willingness to speak out for racial justice in the church and in society inspires NETWORK and should galvanize all Catholics and people of goodwill to follow their example. For all of these reasons, NETWORK is pleased to honor the National Black Sisters' Conference with the inaugural Distinguished Justice-Seeker Award.



**NATIONAL BLACK
SISTERS' CONFERENCE**



Sr. Josita Colbert, SNDdeN, president of NBSC, with Mary Novak at "Spark of the Spirit" December 2021.

Networked for Faith and Love

A Legacy of Connecting the Common Good to Politics Is Cause for Thanksgiving

We are called to be a sacrificial people. Each person must imbue that call with meaning. The network of parishes, dear priests, Catholic school teachers and administrators, church societies and quarterly church events build community at the parish level. This becomes even more important as modern societies become more transient and often rootless. And that is why it is especially a blessing that, thanks to the vision of women religious – for the past 50 years – this connection has also been represented on Capitol Hill.

I recall well when I was first elected to Congress and sworn in, a dear, diminutive NETWORK Sister by the name of Sr. Bridget O'Malley made a concerted, warm effort to welcome me to Washington. Her kindness was a blessing in those early foundational years. I remember many conversations and lunches with her as she addressed serious topics — B-1 bombers, child hunger, and housing for families in need.

Together, I recall we attended a White House Holiday gathering. With our noses almost pressed against glass cabinets, we admired the White House china collection from all presidential administrations and, of course, the mammoth Christmas tree.

A few years later, a polite, take-charge NETWORK Sister dropped by our office and gingerly but authoritatively took a seat in our office waiting area. She wore sturdy leather shoes with thick soles to manage the miles she walked over her three decades as NETWORK's top lobbyist. She generally staked out a position outside Members' offices where she could be certain a Member would walk by. This is how I met the brilliant, indefatigable, good-humored Sister Catherine Pinkerton. A Sister of St. Joseph who left a legacy of education and human development wherever she served – Sr. Catherine was a high respected, indeed revered, lobbyist.

The Roman Catholic faith is a central pillar of my being, particularly as an American of Polish heritage. First, through the intergenerational history of our family, it was the Roman Catholic faith that offered our ancestors worth and hope — during times of bondage, repression, punishment, war, illness, and harrowing economic downturns. Our faith gives value to each human life and to the limitless possibilities of each person and family. This belief animated the tireless work of Sr. Catherine, and it remains with the people who carry on that legacy of advocacy today.



Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) speaks at a Nuns on the Bus rally in Toledo in 2016.

Even when Sr. Catherine retired and returned to live with her community in River's Edge in Cleveland, she still offered hospitality and counsel to her visitors. When our Congressional district was stretched across Ohio to include Sister Catherine's residence, she welcomed me to rest there when I was required to stay overnight. That was so extremely thoughtful and appreciated, as our lumbering coastal district requires a more than two-hour drive from one end to the other.

The Catholic Church's teachings over 2,000 years of human experience provide anchors for values and promote understanding. The preferential option for people experiencing poverty, the enduring call to serve others, and litany of saints remain noble and timeless. It is a faith calling with discipline and love.

And just as faith without works is dead, we owe so much to NETWORK Lobby for making our faith come alive in the halls of power. Their commitment to the common good has helped ensure that love and care for our neighbors finds expression in federal policy and are lived out more fully on the peripheries and throughout society.

Warmest congratulatory wishes to NETWORK and your faith-filled, devoted membership on your 50th anniversary! Bravo! Onward!

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur represents Ohio's 9th Congressional District. She has served in Congress since 1983 and is the longest-serving woman in the history of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Build Anew Agenda

NETWORK's Vision for the Future Calls for a New Foundation



Over the past 50 years, members of the NETWORK community have traveled throughout the U.S., getting to know countless people and listening to them share their stories of how they are impacted by federal policies. In our encounters with communities across the country, we witnessed more acutely the myriad ways in which our national structures and systems not only fail to work for the common good, but actively facilitate the growing inequality, disparities, and individualism we observe today. This reality is a stark contrast to the vision of a society built on solidarity, mutual care, and recognition of human dignity that the tradition of Catholic Social Justice calls us to create.

The United States' social, economic, legal, and political structures are entangled with racism, classism, sexism, nativism, and white supremacy, and have been since this country's founding. Acknowledging these realities are an act of love, of loving the country enough to see its history clearly and strive for something better. The embeddedness of oppression in U.S. systems is why we need a new foundation. There is no way to achieve justice without building new societal structures that intentionally include, uplift, and protect everyone. What we need are not isolated policy solutions but a holistic approach to structural transformation.

Out of this understanding, **NETWORK developed the Build Anew Agenda to guide our policy priorities through 2024.** This agenda is our response to the present reality, a pathway to realizing our vision of a just and inclusive society in light of the Catholic Social Justice tradition.

The Build Anew agenda is rooted in a culture of encounter. It emerges from our relationships and dialogues with diverse communities across the U.S., and is directly informed by the lived experiences of real people, especially those in communities marginalized by our current systems and structures. Grounded in stories, this agenda tends to the pressing needs of our siblings made most vulnerable by structural oppression. And the policies outlined in our agenda, in creating a healthier, safer, and more just society, benefit all of us.

No structure can be strong without a good foundation. Four cornerstones, grounded in the principles of Catholic Social Justice, form the foundation of the Build Anew agenda. These cornerstones are:

- Dismantle systemic racism
- Cultivate inclusive community
- Root our economy in solidarity
- Transform our politics

These four cornerstones frame our advocacy; they are the bedrock upon which we will build anew.

The Build Anew agenda focuses on five key policy areas: Economic Security; Health Care, Housing, and Food Policies; Immigration and Justice Systems; Taxes; and Democracy.

Throughout each of these five policy areas, we will prioritize racial equity, caring for the Earth, and improving the wellbeing of all people and communities. Indeed, these policy areas specifically entail federal policies that dismantle systemic racism, eliminate the wealth and income gap, and allow all people to thrive — especially those most often left out of policy decisions: women, people of color, people on the economic margins, and those at the intersections of these identities.

Grounded in listening and relationships, and guided by the teachings and principles of Catholic Social Justice, we believe we are called to respond to injustice with decisive, collective action. Despite our divisions, we proclaim that all people in the United States, together, make up one single community. Pope Francis says, “Hope would have us recognize that there is always a way out, that we can always redirect our steps, that we can always do something to solve our problems.”

In this hope, we can, and we must, build anew.

Read more about the Build Anew Agenda — including policy data, stories of lived experiences, and what Catholic Social Justice has to say on the issues — in our newly published Build Anew Agenda, available at: networklobby.org/buildanew

The Weight of Something Precious

In NETWORK, Catholics Sisters Have Built a True Legacy

We seldom end up where we expect in life. We think we have a clear vision of where we're going, but the Spirit blows where it will, and our God is one of surprises. As I transition into the role of NETWORK's first Chief of Staff, this rings true for my journey — from a social worker, to an Ursuline Sister of Cleveland, teacher, and school administrator. And now here I am, unexpectedly receiving a legacy shaped and handed down by the women religious who have come before me. As a Catholic Sister, I approach this moment with a deep awareness of its gravity.

You know something is well constructed and even valuable when it's heavy. And that is definitely the case with NETWORK. In Catholic spaces, we throw around a word like tradition, forgetting that it has real weight. Fifty years ago, 47 women religious came together to discern, pray, and ultimately build on a vision for a better church and world by founding NETWORK. Emboldened by the spirit of their visionary founders and foundresses, these women heeded the call of the Second Vatican Council to breathe new life into their community charisms.

These dynamic and visionary women were grounded in a common call — to dismantle systems of racism, oppression, and inequality. This call was rooted in first-hand encounter and accompaniment of men, women and children who were suffering extreme poverty with limited access to healthcare and housing. I imagine the passion and resolve of these women came from their hearts being broken open by the suffering of those they loved and served. You might say these women had hearts ablaze for what they knew was possible — a way forward for the common good.

NETWORK has been blessed with an incredible legacy of women religious leaders who read the signs of the times and responded accordingly — Carol Coston, Maureen Kelleher, Nancy Sylvester, Catherine Pinkerton, Kathy Thornton, Simone

Campbell — each sister receiving the torch from the sister and staff who served before her. I believe these women were called to serve for a particular moment in history and were blessed with the “grace of the office.”

But even these Sisters didn't end up exactly where they expected. On issues including equal rights for women, universal health care, voting rights, and essential reforms of our immigration and criminal legal systems, the better future envisioned by NETWORK remains just that. This too is the weight of tradition, that we faithfully and persistently do our part, in cooperation with the Spirit, but also leave much for those who will follow us.

There is no question that the ministry of educating, organizing and advocating can be daunting at times. However, when a network comes together to support each other and the work; good things happen. I believe every generation is called to embrace and claim their moment in history. I too have had my heart broken open by the people I have encountered in my ministry. It has transformed me within, and as a woman religious, I know that interior transformation must precede work for social and economic transformation.

I am proud to take my place among the holy men and women who make the work possible, who keep alive NETWORK's hope and vision for a more just and inclusive society. Thank you for your faithfulness to NETWORK these past 50 years. I look forward to serving with each of you as we carry the mission long into the future.

Erin Zubal, OSU, is an Ursuline Sister of Cleveland and NETWORK's first Chief of Staff. She previously participated in NETWORK's "Nuns on the Bus" campaigns and served as Chair of the NETWORK Advocates Board.



Erin Zubal, OSU

Chief of Staff

Time at NETWORK: 4 months

Inspiration for my work: “My Ursuline Sisters and our intention to be women who help transform society through contemplation, justice and compassion. In addition I am so inspired by the NETWORK foundresses and their legacy.”

Favorite NETWORK memory: The December 2021 event that drew over 80 Sisters to protest the racist Title 42 border policy in front of the White House “was a wonderful moment of community and public witness.”

At the start of 2022, five Sisters served on the NETWORK staff. These women religious draw on their personal faith and charisms of their communities to inspire their colleagues and NETWORK's members as the organization continues our justice journey into the next 50 years.



Quincy Howard, OP

Time at NETWORK: 5 years

Inspiration for my work: "The Sisters' pugnacious drive for social justice is what called me to the convent and ultimately what brought me to NETWORK. The drive to build a multi-faith coalition around creating a fairer, more inclusive democracy (Faithful Democracy) grew directly out of my experience of women religious. They strive to listen, to include, and to ensure the voices of those on the margins are taken into account: That's what democracy is about."

Favorite NETWORK memory: "The 2018 Nuns on the Bus tour was such a monumental experience for me to meet dozens of sisters from other congregations, to laugh and road-trip with my wonderful colleagues. We deepened our relationships beyond the office, and learned about the amazing work across the nation being done by faithful people of goodwill wanting to support those who most need a hand up."



Eilis McCulloh, HM

Grassroots Mobilization Fellow

Time at NETWORK: 1.5 years

Inspiration for my work: "I've long been inspired by the four churchwomen [murdered in El Salvador in 1980] and by all people who are willing to put their lives on the line to do the work of justice."

Favorite NETWORK memory: "The Title 42 vigil was my first 'in person' NETWORK event, and I loved seeing how many sisters came to D.C. to advocate for an end to Title 42."



Dr. Mara D. Rutten, RSM

Historian

Time at NETWORK: 1.5 years

Inspiration for my work: "Catholic Social Teaching, particularly the notion that 'action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world' is 'a constitutive dimension of preaching the Gospel' (Synod of Bishops, 'Justice in the World,' 1971)."

Favorite NETWORK memory: "Our first virtual lobby day on behalf of the EQUAL Act, which would end sentence disparity for cocaine offenses: The passion of our members resulted in Representatives on both sides of the aisle signing up as co-sponsors!"



Emily TeKolste, SP

Grassroots Mobilization Coordinator

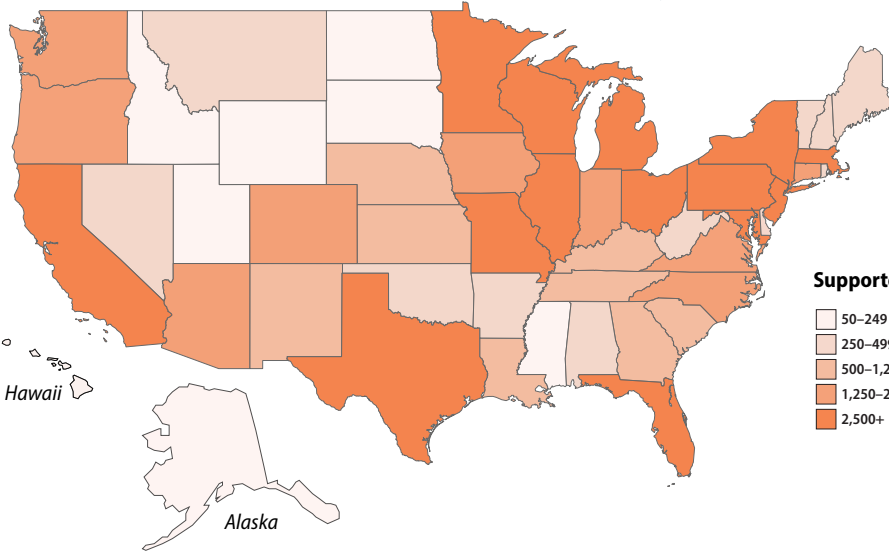
Time at NETWORK: 2.5 years

Inspiration for my work: "Honestly, it changes every day. Some days it's the lived examples of people like Dorothy Day and Cesar Chavez. Other days it's the lived realities of people I know or interact with or hear stories about and an anger at the injustices they face every day – because it doesn't have to be this way! And some days it's my own self-interest: Working for the liberation of all in our society will allow me to experience greater liberation from the confines of white cis-hetero-patriarchal capitalism."

Favorite NETWORK memory: "I get to work with amazing people doing important things with laughter and joy. I'm so grateful to be a part of this community."

OUR NETWORK Community

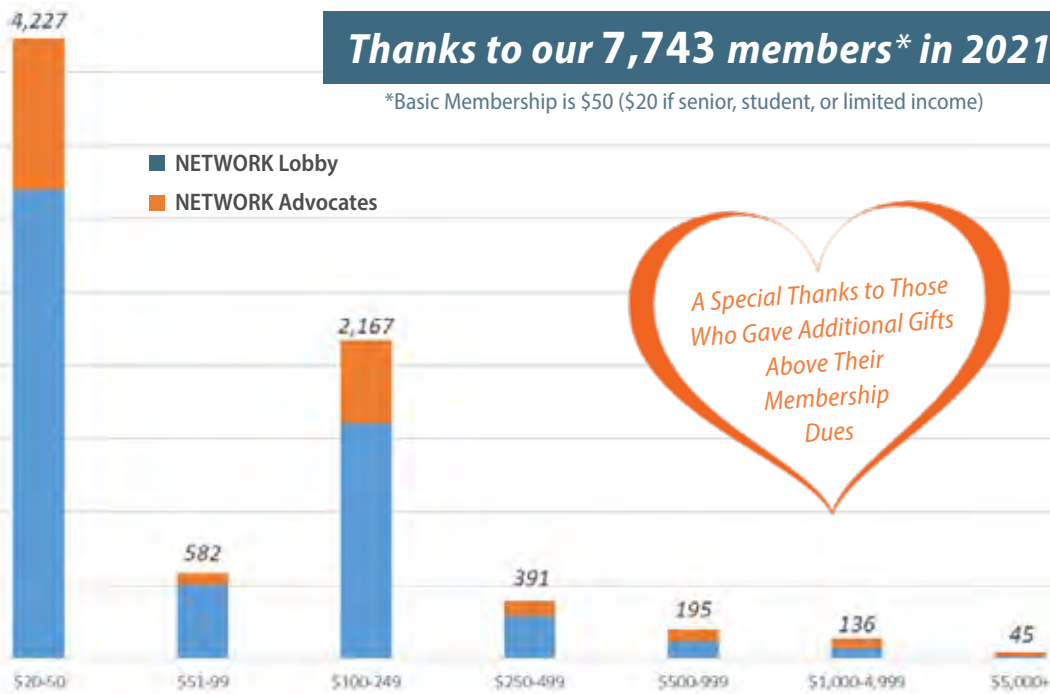
We were honored to have more than **94,000** supporters across the country in 2021



Thanks to our 7,743 members* in 2021

*Basic Membership is \$50 (\$20 if senior, student, or limited income)

■ NETWORK Lobby
■ NETWORK Advocates



1,504 first-time donors

A Sister-Spirit welcome to our newest members!

618 GEMs

People who participated in the **Giving Every Month** program

2,472 Loyalty Society

People who have given consecutively for five years or more

Our Work By The Numbers

4,796,230 emails sent to NETWORK supporters in **206** email blasts

591,752 visits to the NETWORK websites by **183,439** visitors

287,066 NETWORK text messages sent to advocates

36,698 Connection issues mailed to NETWORK members

9,658 calls to Members of Congress by NETWORK activists

1,746 new followers to NETWORK, Nuns on the Bus, and Mary Novak social media accounts

7,289 additional actions taken (emails to Congress, petitions signed) by NETWORK activists

847 press hits highlighting NETWORK's work/positions

3,241 activists attended trainings, presentations, and webinars given by NETWORK staff

594 meetings with Congressional policymakers (including **99** in-district by NETWORK activists)

283 sign-on letters, bill endorsements, and vote recommendations supporting/opposing legislation

128 blog posts published on NETWORK's website

50 Virtual Lobby Day visits

Bread & Roses

~ SOCIETY ~

Members of NETWORK's Bread and Roses Society play a vital role in building the justice movement for many years to come. By planning to remember NETWORK in their will or estate plans, members will make substantial, enduring commitments to our community's long-term work to create a society that promotes justice and the dignity of all in the shared abundance of God's creation.

For more information on how to make a planned gift to NETWORK, please contact us at development@networklobby.org.

Alice and Robert Beezat
 Kim+ and Stephen Benoit
 Margaret Betz
 James Biechler
 Carol Ann+ and Lee J. Breyer
 Derek Coelho
 Susan Doherty
 Albert Eisch
 Jean Hamann
 Jane Houtman

Mary and Calbert Hubbard
 Alice Kitchen
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 Anne Laurance
 Sarah Marin
 Elizabeth Morancy
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 Bernadette Powell
 Noraleen Renauer

Linda Rich
 Barbara and Brian Roos
 Jean Sammon
 Imelda Smith
 Rev. Charles Topper
 Bernadette Tourtual
 Carol Watchler
 Francine Wickes
 Amy and Stephen Zeder
 Dr. Jerome Zurek
 + *deceased*

IN MEMORIAM

We honor the memory of those whose estates supported NETWORK in 2021. We also recognize those who were remembered in 2021 through gifts from relatives and friends.

We are honored to be entrusted with their legacies, which sustain this work for many years to come.

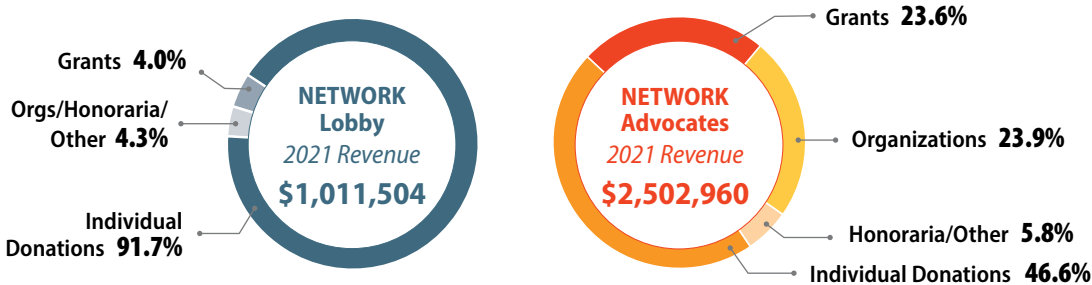
Estate Gifts

Fr. Tony Schumacher
 Rev. John and Roberta Hydar

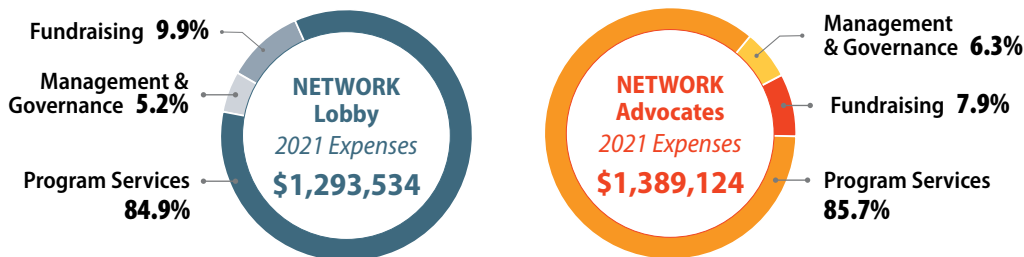
In Memory

David F. Agee
 Joseph G. Aschenbrenner
 Stephen Richard Battalia
 Sr. Mary Bryan, SHCJ
 Josette Buehlmann
 Sr. Mary Jo Fox, OP
 Sr. Pat Funderhide, OSU
 Marguerite Geier
 Robert "Bob" Healy
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 Janice McNamee
 Gabriel Moran
 Beth Murley
 Barney Offerman
 Jason Petosa
 Sr. Megan Rice, SHCJ
 Joan Mullin Scheib
 Donna Fleming Smith
 Gina Barbara Wyatt

Where Our Financial Support Comes From



How Your Financial Support Impacts Our Mission



Notable Quotables

What justice-seekers have been saying this quarter

"The struggle for racial justice, and especially the struggle for voting rights, is one that people from all backgrounds, whether Catholic or Protestant, religious or secular, regard as integral to human life and dignity."

Congresswoman Barbara Lee (CA-13), from article "Witness of John Lewis Rallies People of Faith on Voting Rights"

"Our faith is not static but transportable. We are to apply our faith to the moments we live outside the building we call church."

Deacon Art Miller, from article "Mom Taught Me: To Love Your Neighbor Is To Suffer For Them"

"We are now charged with the responsibility of doing the work that is necessary to protect the rule of law and to promote equality and justice for all."

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson

"Let's make corporations and wealthy American start paying their fair share."

President Joe Biden, State of the Union, March 1, 2022

"What would the Church be without religious sisters and consecrated laywomen? The Church cannot be understood without them."

Pope Francis, Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, February 1

"If we want to rebuild the soul of the nation we must rebuild it together."

Ronnate Asirwatham, NETWORK Government Relations Director

"Crafting a society rooted in equity will require patient and faithful work from many generations."

Colin Martinez Longmore, NETWORK Grassroots Outreach and Education Specialist

"Like Catholic sisters, Pope Francis has prioritized the well-being of others, especially those who are most marginalized by our social, political and economic systems."

Mary J. Novak, NETWORK Executive Director, from "At nine years, Pope Francis channels the spirit of Catholic sisters"

"Black Catholics are not a monolith. The future of the church depends on deepening our understanding of this."

Dr. Tia Noelle Pratt, from "Why Pew's new study on Black Catholicism is critical for U.S. church leaders"

"Responsible citizenship and participation in political life is a moral obligation."

Maria de Lourdes Valencia, Associate Director of the Culture of Life office of the Diocese of San Diego

"NETWORK has been an essential partner of the Congress. Indeed you have helped forge great progress for the entire country."

Speaker Nancy Pelosi



NETWORK ENDOWMENT FUND CELEBRATING OUR 50th ANNIVERSARY

NETWORK has worked for 50 years to create federal policies that build a more just society, because our Catholic Social Justice tradition teaches us we must respect the human dignity and needs of every human person in our community.

NETWORK shines not only for its results, but for the fundamental nature of how we work. Our work for justice is people-powered and person-focused. Relationships, community, and encounter are at the center of what we do. Every day, new activists and supporters join our hope-filled movement for justice. NETWORK has grown into a vibrant and effective advocacy community, open to all who share our passion.

Why the Endowment Fund Campaign?

The work of seeking justice is a long path. While we celebrate NETWORK's 50th Anniversary, we also seek to ensure its continuation for the next 50 years of advocacy for the common good. **To that end, the Board and Staff of NETWORK will celebrate our anniversary by raising \$5 million to build our Endowment Fund.** We are proud to share that during our quiet phase, we have reached \$3.57 million in gifts and pledges, 71% of our goal. This fund will anchor the future work of NETWORK, ensure the continued work for the common good, and allow us to grow our capabilities in the exciting years to come.

In the first 50 years of NETWORK's existence, donors and members have enabled NETWORK to fulfill our mission. The Endowment Fund will sustain and support the organization in the future by producing a source of income from its investment earnings that will support and extend our reach, underwrite innovative components of our work that respond to the moment, and recruit and retain a talented and diverse staff during periods of financial uncertainty.

Today's hunger to transcend the cynicism and division that has been fostered by contemporary society calls forth a vision to:

- Build and support teams of committed activists in all 50 states
- Harness the hearts and energies of tens of thousands of grassroots volunteers to dismantle structural racism and bridge rural/urban and other divides
- Undertake an inclusive and long-term organizing effort
- Anchor the effort by expanding NETWORK's respected Capitol Hill policy expertise
- Use sophisticated technology-based educational and media outreach to enlist more and more people into a "Sister-Spirit" inspired activism for more just federal policies

What We Ask of You

In the spirit of our foundresses who collected an initial sum of \$147 to begin this ministry, we once again "pass the bag" here among this committed, courageous community of spirit-filled justice seekers. We invite you to celebrate NETWORK's 50th Anniversary with us by contributing to the NETWORK Endowment Fund, to realize NETWORK's vision of justice in our country.

NETWORK's 50th Anniversary Endowment Fund will provide the essential foundation for a future where our teams of activists are able to educate, connect, and mobilize for transformational change across the country. We can do this with talented people, a passion for justice, and your support.



To make a contribution or pledge to the NETWORK 50th Anniversary Endowment Fund, please use this gift intent form and return with the envelope found in this issue of Connection.

I/We intend to support the 50th Anniversary with a contribution of \$ _____ to the Endowment Fund.

This includes/does not include (circle one), my annual fund gift. This gift is in honor/memory of _____.
Make checks payable to NETWORK Advocates and include on the memo line Endowment Fund.

My contribution to the Endowment Fund is: Enclosed in one installment paid by (mm/dd/yyyy): _____

in installments: Amount \$ _____ paid monthly/annually (circle one), until the following date: _____

We are grateful to recognize the following organizations and individuals who have contributed to building the NETWORK Endowment Fund during our quiet phase, as of the time of this printing. If your name was omitted or was recorded incorrectly, we hope you will understand and inform us so we may make a correction. We will continue to acknowledge gifts and pledges made throughout 2022 in *Connection*, and we invite all members of the NETWORK community to join in this joyful investment in the future of our political ministry.

Organizations

Adorers of the Blood of Christ, United States Region
 Adrian Dominican Sisters
 Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica
 Congrégation de Notre-Dame, Blessed Sacrament Province
 Congregation of Divine Providence, San Antonio, TX
 Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
 Congregation of St. Joseph
 Congregation of the Humility of Mary
 Dominican Sisters, Grand Rapids, MI
 Dominican Sisters, Sinsinawa, WI
 Dominican Sisters of Peace
 Hospital Sisters of St. Francis
 Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters
 Racine Dominicans
 School Sisters of Notre Dame, Atlantic Midwest Province
 School Sisters of Notre Dame, Central Pacific Province
 Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
 Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Sisters of Divine Providence of Kentucky
 Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph Province
 Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, IA
 Sisters of St. Francis, Dubuque, IA

Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg, IN
 Sisters of St. Francis, Sacred Heart Province
 Sisters of St. Francis, Tiffin, OH
 Sisters of St. Joseph, Baden, PA
 Sisters of St. Joseph, Chestnut Hill, PA
 Sisters of St. Joseph, Concordia, KS
 Sisters of St. Joseph, Orange, CA
 Sisters of St. Joseph, Rochester, NY
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 Sisters of the Holy Family, Fremont, CA
 Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, U.S.-Ontario Province
 Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate
 Sisters of the Humility of Mary
 Sisters of the Most Precious Blood, O’Fallon, MO
 Sisters of the Precious Blood, Dayton, OH
 Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, IA
 Sisters of the Presentation, New Windsor, NY
 Sisters of the Presentation, San Francisco, CA
 Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Monroe, MI
 Society of the Holy Child Jesus American Province
 The Townsend Foundation
 Ursuline Sisters, Cleveland, OH

Individuals

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 Patricia Mullahy Fugere*
 John Horejsi
 Alice Gerdeman, CDP*
 Alice Kitchen
 Anne Li* and Edward Muldoon
 Sarah Marin*
 Alejandra Marroquin*
 June Martin
 Liz Maxwell
 Tim and Renee McCarthy
 John Noble*
 Tracy and Thomas Noble
 Jennifer Owens-Jofré*
 Robbie Pentecost, OSF*
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 Ann Scholz, SSND*
 Susan and Robert Schramm
 Michelle Scott*
 Joanne Tromiczak-Neid
 Rachele Reyes Wenger*
 Alice Wondra
 * Current member of the NETWORK Advocates Board of Directors

The NETWORK Endowment Fund is a board-designated quasi-endowment administered by NETWORK Advocates, a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, and this donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. If you have any questions or would like to discuss your involvement with the NETWORK 50th Anniversary Endowment Fund Campaign, please contact **Kristin Schol**, Major Gifts Officer (kschol@networklobby.org) or **Maggie Brevig**, Development Director (mbrevig@networklobby.org), at (202) 347-9797, extensions 202 and 217 respectively.



Recognition and planned giving form

Donor Name as you would like to be recognized: _____

I/We do not want any recognition, please make this gift anonymous

I/We have included a gift to NETWORK’s Endowment Fund in my/our estate plans through:

- My/Our will
- My/Our living trust
- Retirement plan asset
- Charitable trust
- Insurance Policy

My/Our gift will be matched by: Matching gift enclosed

Please forward me the matching gift form via email or mail (circle one)

What justice-seekers have been doing this quarter



"We need her." NETWORK Executive Director Mary J. Novak speaks at a March 30 rally in support of the nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court. The event in front of the Supreme Court building brought together leaders from different faith traditions to voice support for Jackson, the first Black woman ever nominated to the court.

Photo: Julia Morris

On February 15, NETWORK hosted an Intergenerational Dialogue, bringing together young justice-seekers and older Sister advocates as part of NETWORK's 50th anniversary. Keynote speaker Olga Segura noted: *"The Black Lives Matter movement taught me how to respond to the world around me and ... to pay attention to the most marginalized voices in our nation, how to uplift these voices while also learning from them. By teaching me how to uplift marginalized voices, I began to learn how white supremacy conditions us to erase these experiences."*



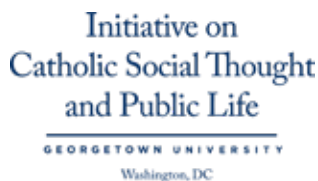
Min. Christian Watkins (left) of the NETWORK Government Relations Team and Colin Martinez Longmore (right) of the Grassroots Mobilization team accompany a group from Marian University in Indianapolis and meet Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) on his way to a vote in early March. The Marian group was in Washington for an advocacy training and meeting on Capitol Hill.

Photo: Christian Watkins

Thank You To Our Generous Sponsors



National Council of Jewish Women



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 Elizabeth Morancy • National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd • NFP • Gráinne O'Leary and Paul Marchione
 Stephen Schneck • U.S. Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph • Jerry Zurek

The AFL-CIO congratulates
NETWORK
on its 50th anniversary.

AFL-CIO
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Celebrates **50 Years** of
Sister-Spirit advancing
racial and economic justice.

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**The Congregation of
the Sisters of St. Joseph**

is grateful for and supports
the essential justice work of

NETWORK

We celebrate your 50 years of
service and advocacy with you!

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Congratulations
on 50 years of making **good trouble**.

May you have 50 more!



Congratulations **NETWORK**
for **50** years of Gospel Justice Advocacy!



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Thank You for 50 Years of
Faithful Advocacy
on behalf of the world's most pressing needs



Leadership Conference of Women Religious
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Congratulations to NETWORK

for 50 tremendous years of justice work!

May you go from strength to strength.



National Council of Jewish Women

Congratulations NETWORK on your 50th Anniversary

*Best wishes as you move forward on your journey
to advocate for justice and fairness for all.*



SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME DE NAMUR

Making known God's goodness

Congratulations **NETWORK!**

Thank you for your faithful justice witness!

*Proud to be partners with you in
building a just world for all!*



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

Happy 50th Anniversary, NETWORK!

We are privileged to share your commitment to finding common ground in order to serve the common good. And we owe our dedication to Catholic Sisters who founded NETWORK and have guided our ministry. They inspire us all.

Hello humankindness®

CommonSpirit 

“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane.”
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Healthcare Education Project

is proud to support

NETWORK

on its 50th Anniversary Advocates Training & Justice Ablaze Gala

The Healthcare Education Project is a joint initiative of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East and the Greater New York Hospital Association. The two organizations represent over 300,000 healthcare workers and over 250 not-for-profit hospitals, nursing homes and care providers. The project's mission is to protect and expand access to quality, affordable healthcare for all New Yorkers.



**healthcare
education
project**

Healthcare • Education • Action!

Sparking the movement to set **JUSTICE ABLAZE**

Carol Coston, OP
Founding Executive Director
1972-1982

Maureen Fenlon, OP
National Coordinator
2003-2004

Betty Foster, OP
Coordinator/Workshop Teacher
1974-1976

Mary Rae Waller, OP
Staff Member: 1972-1974
Editor, Staff Research: 1974-1977

And countless other **Adrian Dominican Sisters** who have supported NETWORK's justice journey as board members, lobbyists, state and regional representatives, and by sharing their gifts as consultants, artists, and interns.



Adrian Dominican Sisters
Seek Truth • Make Peace • Reverence Life



Adrian Dominican Sisters, Carol Coston, OP, (third from left), Patricia Siemen, OP, (fifth from left), and Joan Baustian, OP, (right), with other NETWORK staffers in Washington, D.C., in 1972.



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In the Room:

Building the Power of Participation

Watch Sr. Carol Coston, OP and other NETWORK Foundresses tell the story of creating a Catholic, woman-led organization to educate, organize, and lobby for justice in their own words.

Visit: www.networklobby.org/InTheRoom