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Catholics Embrace Nonviolent Resistance

Also...

Meet NETWORK's New Executive Director



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

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ON THE COVER

TOP ROW: Kathy Garrant and Todd Manning at a Rochester, NY rally in April; participants march and carry signs at the Keep Families Together Prayer Walk in Cleveland on June 24. **SECOND ROW:** Sr. Patty Chappell and Sr. Ann Howard, SNDdeN hold a sign at the June 24 Sisters Speak Out event on Capitol Hill; Presentation Sisters and Associates participate in a No Kings rally in Dubuque, Iowa on June 14. **BOTTOM ROW:** Min. Christian Watkins and Sr. Eilis McCulloh, HM of NETWORK participate in a Hands Off rally on the National Mall in April.

ON THE BACK COVER

Participants in the June 24 Sisters Speak Out event on Capitol Hill pray over U.S. Senator Raphael Warnock (D-GA) ahead of the debate and vote over the Budget Reconciliation bill.

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Third Quarter—Vol. 53, No. 3, NETWORK Connection ISSN 0199-5723.
Published quarterly by NETWORK, phone: 202-347-9797,
fax: 202-347-9864, email: connection@networklobby.org, www.networklobby.org. Annual dues: \$50/\$60 international.
Postmaster: Send address changes to NETWORK, 820 First Street NE,
Suite 350, Washington, DC 20002-8065.

FPO
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Missionaries of Hope

The Witness of Justice-Seekers Holds True Power



Joan F. Neal

The month before he died, Pope Francis chose the theme for the 2025 World Day of Migrants and Refugees, which will be observed October 4–5. The theme is “Migrants, missionaries of hope.”

“Migrants and refugees become ‘missionaries of hope’ in the communities where they are welcomed,” the Vatican stated. “They remind the Church of the ultimate goal of this earthly pilgrimage — the attainment of our future homeland.” What a beautiful, perhaps surprising reminder of the desperately needed value of hope and where it appears in our world.

This profound view emphasizes a spiritual dimension to the values of Catholic social teaching on the dignity of immigrants and the positive role they play in society. It likewise reminds us that the aggressive, vicious, and cruel measures taken by the Trump administration toward immigrant communities, families, and individuals are not merely legally and morally wrong; they’re spiritually hazardous as well! The gap between the view of immigrants as people who spread hope and remind us of our journey toward God and the narratives spewed by the Administration and their extremist media ecosystem is so wide as to be almost unrecognizable.

This grim reflection of our priorities as a country reminds us how far we’ve fallen, not only in the direct, brutal treatment of immigrants by masked, unmarked agents of our government, but by the people who actively support such measures or just passively tolerate them. It’s also reflected in the big, bad budget reconciliation bill that allots \$150 billion to terrorize our communities through mass detention and deportation efforts, all while slashing food and health care for vulnerable people! What will happen when Jesus looks at us and applies the measures described in Matthew 25?

On May 8, a world starved for hope received yet another shocking development from the United States, but a positive one for a change: the election of Leo XIV, the first U.S.-born pope. As a fellow Chicagoan and alumna of Catholic Theological Union, I am happy and humbled by this surprising turn of events. It is a relief to once again have a world leader from the United States who embodies respect, values, vision, care, and yes, hope.

Following his election, a social media post from then-Cardinal Robert Prevost, OSA surfaced in which he shared an article calling out Vice President J.D. Vance for using his Catholic faith as a cover for disregarding any concern for immigrants. “J.D. Vance is wrong,” declared the soon-to-be pope.

With the wind of the Spirit propelling us, NETWORK and our family of faith-filled justice-seekers model a much-needed vision of how people of faith and goodwill can transform society. This vision propels our tenacious advocacy for humane immigration policies that honor the dignity of our family, friends, and neighbors. It also illustrates the essential role that faith groups play in neutralizing the power of authoritarian regimes.

With the wind of the Spirit propelling us,
NETWORK and our family of faith-filled
justice-seekers model a much-needed
vision of how people of faith and
goodwill can transform society.

We have seen Catholic Sisters and their collaborators joyfully participate in nonviolent public protests including the recent series of Hands Off rallies, No Kings Day, and the June 24 Catholic Sisters Speak Out Against Inhumane Budget demonstration. This issue of Connection will explore the witness of our members and supporters taking part in these actions, the hope they inspire, and how it’s all rooted deeply in the values of their faith and vocations.

These stories reflect our connection as children of God and members of one human family, including our immigrant friends and neighbors. We aspire to be agents of justice and love in our advocacy for the common good and the promotion of a society where all people, without exception, have what they need to thrive in peace and joy. Just as our new pope brings a missionary spirit, let us also seek to radiate what our communities and country need most in this perilous time. Let us all be missionaries of hope. ☀️

Joan F. Neal served at NETWORK for 12 years, most recently as Interim Executive Director, from January–July 2025.

NETWORK Welcomes Laurie Carafone as New Executive Director



We are delighted to announce that **Laurie Carafone has been named Executive Director** of NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice and NETWORK Advocates for Catholic Social Justice. She started on July 14 and most recently served as Vice President of U.S. Legal Services for Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), where she spent 13 years championing legal support for immigrant children, advocating for their asylum.

“I am thrilled to lead NETWORK into its next chapter,” says Laurie. “The organization’s prophetic commitment to dismantling poverty, promoting racial equity, and advancing economic justice resonates deeply with me. I am honored to serve this extraordinary organization into its next era of faithful advocacy and systemic impact.”

The chairs of NETWORK’s boards celebrate that Carafone is deeply committed to the mission of the 53-year-old organization founded by Catholic Sisters to work for justice and systemic change through federal policy:

“Laurie is deeply aligned with the values of Catholic social teaching and has spent her career working for racial, economic, and social justice,” says **Sr. Catherine Ferguson, SNJM, chair of the NETWORK Lobby board**. “She’s skilled at building coalitions, navigating tough political landscapes, and bringing people together. She’s an effective communicator and fundraiser, and she also brings an ecumenical spirit that aligns beautifully with NETWORK’s values and vision. Her wisdom, integrity, and gift for building bridges are exactly what’s needed for the road ahead.”

“Those who know her describe her as warm, thoughtful, and someone who listens deeply before making a move — qualities that really resonate with NETWORK’s mission to advocate for federal policies that uplift the dignity of all people and serve the common good,” says **Leslye Colvin, chair of the NETWORK Advocates board**. “Her leadership is inclusive and grounded in justice, with a deep understanding of how anti-racism and social equity intersect, which are essential aspects of NETWORK’s Catholic values. We’re confident Laurie will lead with both courage and compassion.”

Carafone is a native of Massachusetts. She holds a bachelor’s degree in English from Dartmouth College, a J.D. from University of Michigan Law School, and a Master of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School. She is a member of All Souls Church Unitarian in Washington, D.C.





Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters from Wisconsin join in the Sisters Speak Out: Prayer and Public Witness for Immigrants and a Just Economy event on Capitol Hill on June 24. Some 50 communities of Sisters traveled gathered to advocate against the proposed budget reconciliation bill.

Nonviolent Resistance and Catholic Faith

Two Traditions Support One Another and Promote Beloved Community

BY VIRGINIA SCHILDER

Before this year, Aiden Bondurant had only ever protested one time: against the execution of Khaliifah Williams in Missouri. But in just the first half of 2025, she went to five protests — joining her community members in voicing their opposition to the deportations of immigrants, predatory ICE arrests at courthouses, and the proposed budget that would hand tax breaks to the ultra-wealthy by slashing programs like Medicaid and SNAP.

“It was clear that for the hundred people protesting on the street, there were thousands more in our community who felt the same,” Bondurant says. She recalls many passing cars affirming the protests with their “honks of support.”

Bondurant is one of the millions of people across the U.S. who have taken part in peaceful protests since the second Trump administration took office. These protestors are regular

people who share a fundamental belief in a future where all can thrive. They are people who refuse the lies that try to pit them against their neighbors and who insist that they can together make life better in their communities.

History affirms their insistence. Countries that have started to slide into fascism have been able to redirect towards democracy through nonviolent civil resistance from ordinary people. Research from Erica Chenoweth, a researcher at Harvard University, shows that it only takes about 3.5 percent of the population actively engaging in protests to effect real, lasting change. In the U.S., that’s around 11 million people — about the population of North Carolina.

(continued on page 6)

Advocates in action

Today, millions of peaceful demonstrators across the country are joined by hundreds of NETWORK justice-seekers, including members of NETWORK Advocates teams like Mary Nelson, OFS, and Krista Zivkovich.

Nelson, a Secular Franciscan and retired physical therapist, is the leader of the Western Pennsylvania NETWORK Advocates Team. Along with the several communities of women religious in her local Erie area, Nelson participates in regular protests. Lately, the focus of those demonstrations has shifted to making sure Erie upholds its designation as a “Welcoming City” to its many refugee and immigrant community members.

Nelson comes to nonviolent protest guided by the rules that direct her life as a Secular Franciscan, which call members to “be in the forefront in promoting justice by the testimony of their human lives and courageous initiatives.”

She prays, “I am hopeful that more people will feel comfortable speaking out against the tyranny and injustice we are currently facing.”

Nearby in Ohio, Krista Zivkovich was inspired to join the Cleveland NETWORK Advocates Team by the first Nuns on the Bus tour. She describes herself as “a Matthew 25 Catholic,” guided by the question, “Why aren’t you doing what you say you believe?”

Zivkovich and her husband have joined in many nonviolent protests over the years, from local protests with Moms Demand Action for gun safety reform to calling for climate action in Washington, D.C. When some of her fellow parishioners at her church in Painesville were deported during the first Trump administration, she joined prayer pilgrimages hosted by her parish.

Since President Trump returned to office, Zivkovich has been to five protests, including ones targeted to her Congressman David Joyce (OH-14), who has held no local in-person town halls. Because her husband runs the food pantry at their parish, the couple knows how communities rely on SNAP and other food programs — knowledge she shares with her Congressman’s staff.

“Rev. Theodore Hesburgh said, ‘Voting is a civil sacrament,’” Zivkovich explains. “I believe that peaceful protests calling for adequate funding for food, health care, truth in government, etc., are also civic sacraments. Visible signs of our belief that the government should uphold the life and dignity of all.”

NETWORK advocates like Zivkovich, Nelson, and Bondurant join a long tradition of faith-based civil resistance, in which Catholics play a central role. The history of Catholic nonviolence includes landmark figures like Dorothy Day who protested war and poverty, and Sr. Antona Ebo, FSM, who marched at Selma for civil rights.



Krista and Ed Zivkovich participate at an Ohio Hands Off rally in April.

Day and Ebo are just two of scores of Catholics who drew from a rich array of the Catholic tradition’s resources to ground, nurture, and guide participation in nonviolent protest and public witness for justice.

And of course, the example of Jesus himself is a key source.

“Jesus is the ultimate model of active nonviolence,” Sr. Louise Lears, SC affirms.

From injustice to love and hope



Sr. Louise Lears, SC

The Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati’s charism statement concludes with the words, “We dare to risk a caring response.” For two Sisters of Charity we spoke with, “risking a caring response” has meant a decades-long commitment to nonviolent protest.

Sr. Louise’s first experience with nonviolent resistance was in the 1980s at a nuclear weapons test site in Nevada. That experience kicked off her long commitment to peaceful resistance. This has included actions like the March For Our Lives, the Hands Off rallies, and the Poor People’s Campaign. She has joined rallies and marches, fasted for a moral budget, and held protest signs with other Sisters on busy streets.



Sisters hold signs at the June 24 Sisters Speak Out event on Capitol Hill.

Sr. Mary Ann Humbert, SC, spent 10 years traveling to protest the School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia, notorious for its training of Latin American military personnel. “We all knew the risk of ‘crossing the line’ onto government property — for which we could be arrested,” she says. “Jesus spent his attention to both the victimized and the authorities who were carrying out unjust laws and expectations. I feel called to do the same to the best of my ability.”

While some, like Srs. Louise and Mary Ann, have been protesting for decades, others are newer to demonstrating. Sr. Betty McVeigh, a Sister of St. Joseph of Philadelphia (Chestnut Hill), began her involvement in nonviolent protests only after health challenges moved her to retire from 51 years in ministry in education and pastoral work.

She has found that, “It is in the reaching out, making connections, and building bridges that I discover the courage to participate in nonviolent protests and to advocate for justice.”

Those bridges are also built in smaller-scale acts of care. Sr. Caroljean Willie, a Sister of Charity of Cincinnati, Ohio recounts one experience: “Midway through the protest, a pickup truck filled with immigrants drove by and passed out water to all the participants. It was an incredible feeling of ‘We are in this together.’” She adds, “The main fruit of this work is that it brings an awareness to others that people care about justice, that people care about others, that people care about the world in which we live.”

These acts of care are central to the power of nonviolent action. They make the protests themselves bring to life the beloved community of mutual care, joyfulness, and healed relationships. As these participants know, nonviolent resistance has never been only about acting *against* injustice, but acting *for* loving communities.

“The injustices we see around us often stem from fear, division, and isolation,” Aiden Bondurant notes. “For me, nonviolent protest is a lamenting act of love.” She adds, “We are meant to be together, and Christ always invites us to that.”

Spirit-filled hope permeates nonviolent action, and it grows in the new relationships formed there.

“Participating in these peaceful protests most of all gives me hope. I meet and share with other people who share my concerns and have compassion,” Krista Zivkovich says.

Sister Louise Lears believes that finding hope is a fitting response.

“I have learned that nonviolence is a circle, and everyone has a place in the circle,” she says. “Any action on behalf of justice has ripple effects.”



NETWORK's Sr. Eilis McCulloh, HM joins a Hands Off rally on the National Mall.



1. Sr. Emily TeKolste, SP, of NETWORK's Grassroots Mobilization Team participates in a Hands Off rally in Terra Haute, IN.

2. Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi hugs NETWORK's Sr. Eilis McCulloh, HM after being presented with a sign-on letter regarding the budget on June 24.

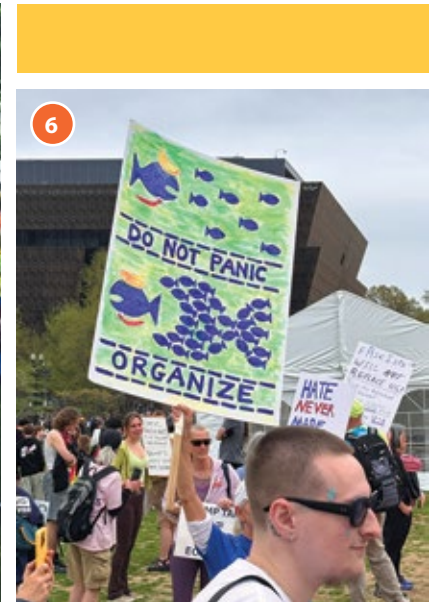
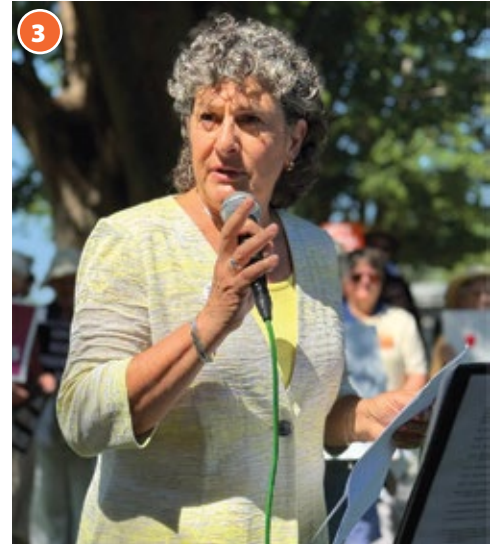
3. NETWORK's Joan F. Neal speaks at the Pentecost Witness March for Justice and a Moral Budget on June 10.



4. Sisters of Divine Providence in Covington, KY make phone calls to advocate for a just federal budget.

5. Father Bob Wenz attends a Strongsville, OH Hands Off rally.





1. Catherine Gillette of NETWORK's Grassroots Mobilization Team attends a Hands Off rally in Oswego, NY.
2. Lois Harr joins a rally in New York City.
3. Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM, President and CEO of the Catholic Health Association, speaks against cuts to health care in the federal budget at the June 24 Sisters Speak Out event.
4. Revs. Bruce and Carolyn Gillette participate in the Oswego, NY Hands Off rally.
5. Sr. Patty Chappell, SNDdeN addresses the June 24 Sisters Speak Out event.
6. A protester holds a sign held during the Hands Off rally on the National Mall in Washington.
7. Lou and Janet Tullo join a Hands Off rally in Kingston, NY.

Why Sisters Speak Out

My Justice Journey Leads Me Into Action Today

I trace the beginnings of my justice journey to coming of age in the Chicago area during the mid-1960s. The civil rights movement and the Vietnam War deeply shaped my awareness of justice issues.

I attended a Catholic high school run by the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters from Monroe, Michigan — a very progressive order. They challenged us to be aware of what was happening in society and provided numerous service opportunities. These experiences opened my eyes to the root causes of poverty and helped me begin to understand why people live in such difficult conditions.

During the 1968 presidential campaign, George Wallace was scheduled to speak in Cicero — a town known for its intense racism, where crosses were still burned in front of Black families' homes. My religion teacher, Sister John David, invited a small group of us to go hear him, simply out of curiosity. She wore a modified habit, and about ten of us were in our school uniforms.

Wallace was speaking from the hood of a car. As we approached the crowd, people immediately began to harass us. They recognized we were Catholic because of our uniforms, and that alone signaled to them that we didn't support Wallace. The hostility was so strong, we ended up leaving. That experience left a lasting impression on me about the connection between my faith and activism. Just by showing up as who we were, people knew what we stood for, and I believe that made a difference.

Actions like this and others from people of faith are important now because our moral witness is urgently needed. We are living in a time when policies are being proposed and passed that harm immigrants, low-income families, the elderly, and our Earth itself. As Catholic Sisters, our faith demands that we not remain silent in the face of injustice. The Trump administration is actively targeting the very ministries Catholic Sisters have dedicated their lives to: education, health care, and social services. How can we remain silent when the people we serve and work alongside every day are at risk?

Due to this threat, I was encouraged to see a desire for collective action emerge at the Justice Conference of Women Religious convocation in March. I strongly felt that Catholic Sisters needed to raise a clear and courageous voice in opposition to the injustices we are witnessing. By showing up in Washington in late June at the "Sisters Speak Out: Prayer and Public Witness for Immigrants and a Just Economy," we brought a visible witness to Gospel values — compassion, justice, and solidarity —



Sr. Reg McKillip, OP, kneeling at right, joins her Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters at the Sisters Speak Out event on Capitol Hill on June 24.

at a time when political decisions too often reflect fear, division, and exclusion.

Being together in Washington — and knowing that at the same time, numerous echo events were taking place with Sisters praying in solidarity — was a profound reminder of the strength of our community. What moved me the most was praying the rosary together. Honestly, the rosary is not my usual form of prayer, so I was surprised by how deeply it touched me. But saying it collectively, in that space and moment, made me feel the power of our unity and the deep grounding of our faith in action. It was truly a spiritual and communal experience.

Activism and the spiritual really do belong together. I integrate them in my life by grounding my actions in prayer, community, and in the belief in the presence of a God who is love. My faith calls me to work toward a world that reflects this love. To me, activism is not separate from my spiritual life, but a natural expression of it, and I know this has been true of many Sisters for a long time.

Religious life has often been described as the conscience of the world. Right now, our country desperately needs that moral voice. We cannot allow fear or intimidation to silence us. I truly hope that these actions are part of the beginning of a broader movement — one that spreads, inspires, and strengthens others to take a stand. Together, we can push back against the dangerous direction in which our country is heading.

Sr. Reg McKillip, OP is Promoter of Justice and Peace for the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa.

Crises and Common Ground

Principled, Persistent Engagement is How We Move Forward

In May, as I stepped into my new role as NETWORK's Senior Government Relations Advocate on Immigration, I felt deeply moved by the opportunity to continue working with people of diverse faiths. More than ever before, I believe that fostering unity is not only possible, but essential as we confront the looming threat of the largest mass deportation effort in U.S. history and work to overcome congressional gridlock in pursuit of compassionate and just immigration policies.

Pope Leo said recently: "In this our time, we still see too much discord, too many wounds caused by hatred, violence, prejudice, the fear of difference and an economic paradigm that exploits the Earth's resources and marginalizes the poorest. For our part, we want to be a small haven of unity, communion and fraternity within the world."

This is an important reminder that, especially in times of rapid change, the crises unfolding around us are interconnected and interrelated. Building common ground in these times is essential to healing the fractures in our shared values and systems from harmful ideologies and political extremes — for our own well-being and for the common good.

Both my lived experience and professional career have presented meaningful opportunities to reach common ground with diverse audiences. In 2019, as a government relations associate at NETWORK, I supported the Government Relations Team in laying the groundwork for the passage of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.

As I later served as the program director for Migration Policy at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, I drew on those successful strategies to build a broad, interfaith, and cross-sector coalition. We worked in support of the Afghan Adjustment Act after 70,000 Afghans were evacuated to the U.S.

The throughline is clear: Principled and persistent engagement with those who share common values is essential. It is how we move our country past these current blows to human rights and to social, economic, civil, and environmental progress. When we show up for others, we forge the bonds of our collective liberation.

Soon, elected representatives will reckon with their own complicity in laying the foundation for mass deportations that will tear families apart, devastate our communities, and undermine the economy. But they also have a choice: to reclaim their values, reject divisive extremes, and help steer our nation toward a more humane and just immigration system.



Giovana Oaxaca, who joined NETWORK's Government Relations Team in May, addresses the Capitol Hill kickoff rally for the Nuns on the Bus & Friends "Vote Our Future" tour in July 2024.

Photo: Larry French/Content Services for NETWORK Nuns on the Bus & Friends

Principled and persistent engagement with those who share common values is essential. It is how we move our country past these current blows to human rights and to social, economic, civil, and environmental progress. When we show up for others, we forge the bonds of our collective liberation.

I remain committed to championing human dignity and family unity, fostering common ground, and creating a society where everyone can thrive, no exceptions.

Giovana Oaxaca is NETWORK's new Senior Government Relations Advocate on Immigration.





Sarah Christopherson on How the Ultra-Rich Don't Pay Taxes

And What Our Country Could Afford if They Did

We know that billionaires in the United States hold nearly \$7 trillion in total wealth. How have the wealthiest in our country gotten this wealthy?

Sarah Christopherson: There is really some intentionality around, “Taxes are boring, taxes are complicated. You people in the public aren’t smart enough to know taxes,” which is absolutely not true. It’s so that you disengage and don’t pay attention and that lets the very wealthiest really rig the system, right?

So when I’m talking to groups, I always say, “You can talk to your Member of Congress and know some basic facts. You know that you’re paying your taxes. You know from reporting that there are years in which Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk, Warren Buffett, and others paid *zero dollars* of federal income taxes.”

I had a conversation with a Member of Congress two weeks ago, and I said, “There were years where we, everyone in this room, paid more than those billionaires.” And he said, “You mean a lower rate?” And I said, “No, I mean, we paid more in *dollars*.” Because there are years in which those billionaires saw their income through wealth skyrocket and they paid nothing.

So, we may not all know the intricacies of taxes, but we all know that regular people are paying our fair share, that the people at the tippy, tippy top of the spectrum are getting away with the equivalent of tax murder, and that it’s not right, you know?

Figuring out exactly who’s a billionaire is a little tricky, but let’s say it’s around 800 to 1,000 people. That’s like your average high school gymnasium, right? ... We’re talking about a high school gymnasium collectively worth \$7 trillion, when more than half of the country is not collectively worth \$7 trillion.

And imagine how much power any one of those people in the gymnasium has over *every facet of our life*. Like, Jeff Bezos owns the *Washington Post*, and when he decides that he doesn’t like their editorials, he just takes over what they can say, right? When Elon Musk decides he doesn’t like what people are saying on Twitter, he can just take over Twitter.

We have given this gymnasium full of people incredible power to dictate what we know, what we eat, what we hear, what we see, the media we absorb, whether or not we can fight climate change. We have decided to let wealth lead to more wealth and leave everybody else behind.

One thing I want people to have some confidence in is: don’t ever let anyone tell you that we do not have enough money to take care of the people in our country. We are phenomenally wealthy.

Sarah Christopherson is a longtime tax, budget, and health care expert. She began her career advising Members of Congress before working as a policy advocate on efforts including passing the Affordable Care Act and opposing the 2017 Trump tax law. Sarah also was a rider on the 2024 Nuns on the Bus & Friends tour.

This interview is an excerpt from the Just Politics podcast, a joint project of NETWORK and U.S. Catholic.

Visit NETWORK’s Tax Justice Calculator at networklobby.org/taxjusticecalculator to see how taxing the ultra-wealthy will allow us to fund the programs you care about.

Photo: Jacob Schatz, CCR Studios



Tell me if these are things that we as a country could afford if we taxed billionaires. First: the Child Tax Credit?

SC: Absolutely. And we saw what happened when we expanded the Child Tax Credit, right? Childhood poverty plunged. And then when Congress allowed that expansion to lapse, poverty rebounded right back up to where it was. And so when I say like, childhood poverty is a *choice* that we have made, there's no denying it. Horrifying.

Universal basic income?

SC: Yes, we could definitely do that. I don't know the numbers off the top of my head the way I do for the child tax credit, but, absolutely.

"Billionaires overwhelmingly benefit when people are too sick and too poor to fight for their rights."

Expanding Medicaid in states that have not yet expanded their provisions under the Affordable Care Act?

SC: Oh, absolutely, absolutely. And [it would] actually save us so much money. A robust federal investment in Medicaid expansion across the board so that adults below a certain income threshold have access to health care? That saves rural hospitals, that makes health care across the board more affordable. It means that you don't have long wait lines in ERs. The cost savings to us are phenomenal.

When people oppose something like a Medicaid expansion, it's not because they have this hard-headed realism about costs and benefits. It's because some very powerful people benefit from the immiseration of the working class. *Billionaires overwhelmingly benefit* when people are too sick and too poor to fight for their rights, to fight for work protections, to fight for fair wages, to unionize. There's a benefit to Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos when everybody is sick and tired and working four jobs just to make ends meet and can't afford housing.

What about head start programs or free childcare? Better funding our schools and education in general?

SC: Yes, and again, these are investments that pay for themselves. An educated workforce? Who doesn't want that?

The amount of income derived from wealth that goes entirely untaxed in this country dwarfs, by a huge factor, all of these social programs. I mean, in terms of how much money we give away to the ultra-wealthy every year, versus how little it costs comparatively to end child poverty or take care of people.

Do you think we'll ever see a tax system that is geared towards the working people, that's geared towards all of us?

SC: Yes. Partly because we know what to do, right? We know the loopholes that allow Jeff Bezos, the Michael Bloombergs and the Koch brothers and the Walton Walmart heirs, we know how they avoid paying taxes.

I'm sort of optimistic because as we said at the beginning of this conversation, more and more people know that the system is rigged against them. And when we talk about policies like a wealth tax or an income tax for billionaires, which are related but separate things, that polls really well. People want to see it. And they sure as hell don't want to see their Medicaid cut or services cut to give Elon a bigger tax cut.

We know what to do. We know the people are with us. And we know that ultimately, the ultra-wealthy paying their fair share in taxes leads to more stability, more economic growth, and better returns for everybody.



Listen to this conversation in its entirety at: networklobby.org/just-politics-podcast

Notable Quotables

What justice-seekers have been saying this quarter

"I think they saw his sense of community because of his belonging to the Augustinian Community, and that he had a missionary heart for the poor. So he's not just local and concerned about the United States. He has a global heart and a global vision.

— Sr. Therese DelGenio, SSND, former teacher of Robert Prevost, now Pope Leo XIV

"We have a sacred duty to protect creation, to act in solidarity with the workers and families most affected by environmental harm, and to ensure clean air, water, and land for all of us."

— Drake Starling, NETWORK Senior Government Relations Advocate for Energy and Environmental Policy on Earth Day

"If a United States Senator becomes too afraid to speak up, how can we expect any other American to do the same?"

— Sen. Alex Padilla (D-CA) on his experience of being handcuffed and forcibly removed from a June 12 press conference by Homeland Security Sec. Kristi Noem

"This bill is cruel. It is cowardly. It is a betrayal of everything this country is supposed to stand for."

— Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA) during the July 2 floor debate prior to the House of Representatives' vote on the budget reconciliation bill

"We want ... a church that always seeks peace, that always seeks charity, that always seeks to be close especially to those who suffer."

— Pope Leo XIV, following his election on May 8

"We strongly decry the passage of this reckless and cruel budget reconciliation bill by the Senate. It represents stark opposition to the values of justice, equity, and solidarity that shape NETWORK's mission."

— Joan F. Neal, NETWORK Interim Executive Director, following the July 1 passage of the budget reconciliation bill by the Senate

"Artificial intelligence poses new challenges for human dignity, justice, and labor. We must apply our Catholic social teaching to ensure technology serves the common good."

— Pope Leo XIV in an address to the College of Cardinals

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JUSTICE-SEEKERS...

Your IRA Can Make a Difference



Are you age 73 or older and own a Traditional IRA? You can make a powerful impact on our political ministry — while potentially reducing your taxable income.

By directing a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA to a 501(c)(3) organization like **NETWORK Advocates**, you can donate up to \$108,000 per year without increasing your federal taxable income. If you're required to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), a QCD can count toward that amount.

To make a gift from your IRA, provide your administrator with the following details:

RECIPIENT NAME: NETWORK Education Program

TAX ID NUMBER: 52-1307764

ADDRESS: 820 First Street NE, Suite 350,
Washington, DC 20002

You can also name **NETWORK Advocates** as a **beneficiary of your IRA**. If you do, we would love to hear from you so we can honor your commitment to justice as a member of our Bread and Roses Society.

Questions?

Please consult your tax advisor or financial professional to determine what is best for your personal situation. For more information about making a gift from your IRA to NETWORK Advocates, contact:

Kristin Schol

kschol@networklobby.org

(202) 601-7857





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