

Holding Issues as Equally Sacred

The Challenge of Contemporary Political Engagement

In March of 2018 and again in June 2020, Pope Francis gave Catholics, and all people of good will, clear instructions for how we are called to position ourselves and prioritize social issues.

In the apostolic exhortation on holiness,

Gaudete et Exsultate and again in his general audience following the murder of George Floyd, Pope Francis speaks of all of the ways we must defend, promote, and protect the sacredness of human life. A list of the issues named by Pope Francis on these occasions follows.

As we approach the 2020 election, NETWORK will evaluate candidates' positions on these critical issues of human life and human dignity, valuing them, as Pope Francis says, as "equally sacred:"



Pope Francis Priorities

- ✓ We need a clear, firm and passionate defense of the unborn, however, equally sacred are the lives of those already born.
- ✓ Equally sacred are those made destitute, abandoned, underprivileged.
- ✓ Equally sacred are the vulnerable infirm and the elderly exposed to covert euthanasia.
- ✓ Equally sacred are victims of human trafficking and new forms of slavery.
- ✓ Equally sacred are those exposed to every form of rejection.
- ✓ We must address injustice in a world where some revel and others live in abject poverty.
- ✓ We must consider the situation of migrants a primary issue.
- ✓ We must oppose racism and exclusion in any form.

Sources:

Gaudete et Exsultate: Apostolic exhortation on the call to holiness in today's world. March 19, 2018.

Pope Francis General Audience. June 3, 2020.