

***The Francis Project***  
**2019 Political and Legislative Strategic Plan**

**Overall Prospectus**

President Donald Trump's election on November 9, 2016 was a watershed moment for the Catholic Church and particularly for us lay Catholics who participate and advocate in public life.

It's forced us in a profound way to narrow our focus. It's safe to say that the President's agenda threatens so many policies and practices that correspond to the heart of the social mission of Pope Francis and Catholic Church in the United States. To respond effectively and generously to the signs of the times, we will focus on the following five issues:

1. The just treatment of immigrants and refugees, particularly from Muslim-majority countries.
2. Protecting and improving Americans' health care coverage and benefits gained under the Affordable Care Act.
3. Stopping any proposed cuts to poverty and hunger programs.
4. Stopping and rolling back the worst anti-union laws in state legislatures across the nation.
5. Ensuring the United States's continued participation in the Paris Agreement and care for God's creation.

While these will be our proactive issues throughout the year, we will respond in urgent situations to issues outside this fold.

**Modus Operandi: With our particular resources, knowledge, skill sets, and passions, we will implement a threefold approach to these topline issues:**

1. **National and Local Messaging and Framing:** With our weekly appearance contracts with TIME and FOX News, we will work day in and day out to get our particular Catholic messaging on these issues in the public sphere.
2. **Inside Politicking:** While we present a strong media message, we will leverage our personal relationships at the White House and on Capitol Hill to ensure we're doing the necessary inside work to push our organization's policy objectives forward. We are willing to engage with anyone of any party to move our vision forward.
3. **Membership Education and Mobilization:** With over 35,000 members throughout the nation, we will educate them on the pertinent issues of the day and mobilize them to pressure their federal and local elected officials to push our policy objectives forward. We will also train them in both media messaging and the art of legislative politics so that can have the skill sets to scale our work at the local level.