



# Platform for the Common Good

INSPIRED BY FAITH AND BUILDING ON OUR NATION'S FOUNDING IDEALS

## Summary

Enlivened by the Gospel message of hope and the wisdom of Catholic Social Teaching, we, as people of faith, have come together with deep urgency to help make our nation “a more perfect union” focused on the common good. **In the words of the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution,**

**We the People of the United States** are called to:

### ESTABLISH JUSTICE

To **establish Justice** we are challenged to protect *life* and to address disparities between “haves” and “have-nots” in this country and around the world. We are called to support policies that promote *economic equity*, ensure *human rights*, and eliminate all forms of exploitation and discrimination. We must address the root causes of migration and reform our flawed *immigration* system. And we need to change laws and mentalities that support institutional racism, sexism and classism, and discrimination based on disability, age or other factors.

### ENSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY

To **ensure domestic Tranquility** we need infrastructures and programs to build up local *communities* and businesses and to provide access to *education, jobs, needed services* and *green space*. Local businesses are important in developing strong communities that support families. Government, business and community partnerships must provide needed opportunities for children and families to flourish in an environment free from violence and criminal activity. We need to *reform our criminal justice systems* and focus more attention on rehabilitation programs and transitional support services for re-entry into communities.

### PROVIDE FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE

To **provide for the common defense** we need to develop an ethical U.S. foreign policy that emphasizes conflict resolution through *diplomacy* instead of military force—and that promotes stability abroad through fair trade laws, debt cancellation and increased responsible international *development aid*. Our nation must engage with other nations to develop creative solutions to common problems such as migration, human trafficking, drug trafficking, crime, weapons proliferation, global poverty, and climate change. Our country needs to do more to foster constructive relations with and improved understanding of other cultures. Supporting the *United Nations* is critical as is participating in and abiding by international treaties.

### PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE

To **promote the general Welfare** we must promote and protect life and all of the systems and supports that are required for *life and human dignity*. This includes embracing the goals of both the U.S. and the global campaigns to eliminate poverty and to increase access to quality *education, living wage jobs, safe housing, nutritious food, and comprehensive, quality healthcare*. We must create the essential conditions for a consistent culture of life that respects and promotes life at all stages.

### SECURE THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY TO OURSELVES AND OUR POSTERITY

To **secure the Blessings of Liberty for ourselves and our posterity** we must organize our economic development and production to provide for long term sustainability. Ecological responsibility requires that we manage and distribute material resources across all humanity and into future generations. We envision a social and economic order that is sustainable and ecologically responsible; places human dignity above profits; harnesses renewable and clean sources of energy; balances corporate interests with the *global common good*; addresses the need to strengthen our *infrastructure*; eliminates *debt* that will harm future generations; recognizes and seeks to address discriminatory practices; promotes fair trade policies; and neither exploits persons and communities, nor abuses our *stewardship of the earth*.

## Call to Action

**We the People** must continue to work together—as government, business, communities and individuals—to create a nation and world rooted in justice. We must speak, act, insist, demand and ensure that the common good is at the heart of all decisions and actions. These times call for renewed engagement across our differences. Political engagement is not just our right, but our responsibility.

—The Delegates and Steering Committee of the Convention for the Common Good, and all who shared in this process

**For more information and the complete Platform for the Common Good:**  
**[www.catholicsinalliance.org](http://www.catholicsinalliance.org) or [www.networklobby.org](http://www.networklobby.org)**