

# Creating a Catholics Called to the Common Good Network

## Building a Web of Life

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#### **Catholics Called to the Common Good Web of Life**

In response to the US Bishops statement on faithful citizenship and our own “Called to the Common Good” statement, Pax Christi USA and Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good are challenging parishes, local groups and individual members to build a **Web of Life** which will reach far beyond the circles with whom we have so often worked in the past. This is an opportunity to impact on the local level and to establish relationships with many sectors of the Catholic community, including our sisters and brothers in the “Pro-Life” movement. The work of the “Catholics Called to the Common Good Web of Life” is a way to include and empower the many marginalized and suffering who are being robbed of their basic human needs because of the misguided priorities of those in power. It is equally important to engage those who are the voices for the most vulnerable; those who provide services to the impoverished; and those who hold a position of power/authority within the Church and the community (Bishops, pastors, leaders of religious communities, directors of religious education, directors of diocesan committees or departments, directors of parish committees and ministries, social service providers, teachers, case workers, and so many more).

Powerful movements—Webs of Life—do not happen overnight. They are built by establishing relationships—one by one and then creating networks of relationships. It is a lengthy process which requires vision, patience and dedication but which, over time, results in an organization that remains strong for the long haul. The time has come for us to join together, to marshal our resources and to summon our moral courage to say “No” to a political agenda which embraces war and fosters greed and say “Yes” to the common good.

#### **Building a Catholics Called to the Common Good Web of Life**

We offer a highly effective model of organizing a Catholics Called to the Common Good Web of Life based on the “Three Level Model of Leadership” from Direct Action and Research Training (DART). In this model, the Web of Life **Organizer** identifies three persons within their local group, diocesan/parish organization, or within the Catholic community to serve as **Coordinators**. The Organizer plus the Coordinators form what is known as the **Core Team**. Each member of the Core Team then enlists five people who are willing to serve as **Leaders**. The Core Team plus the Leaders each then recruit 3 additional **Members**. As a result of implementing this organizational model, your Web of Life of 72 people is formed!

1. The Core Team identifies the people of authority or power within the Church and community.
2. A copy of the “Called to the Common Good” statement is sent to these people along with a cover letter asking them to consider endorsing and participating in the campaign.
3. The Organizers and the three Coordinators (Core Team) come together to plan the network building process.
4. Members of the Core Team then identify potential Leaders among those person identified as having power or authority in the community.
5. A personal contact is made by a member of the Core Team with potential Leaders to enlist their commitment and service.
6. Leaders commit to recruiting three Members from their organization, parish, etc. who are interested in actively participating in the campaign.

Once the Web of Life has been established, it can:

- Bring the Called to the Common Good message and campaign into whole new constituencies.
- Bring the insights, expertise and energy of these new constituencies in the campaign.
- Serve as a network of community and church leaders to include in public events, statements, congressional visits, media work and more.
- Serve as an ongoing network of concerned, progressive Catholics for future projects on other issues.

**Help build our national Catholics Called to the Common Good Web of Life!**

**Empower** Catholic social justice values

**Strengthen** our parishes and dioceses

**Build** community partnerships

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## Catholics Called to the Common Good

A PROJECT OF CATHOLICS IN ALLIANCE FOR THE COMMON GOOD AND PAX CHRISTI USA

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