

## Pope2Congress Watch Party Discussion Questions:

*The following discussion questions are suggested as starting points for conversation following Pope Francis's address to Congress. Ignatian Solidarity Network suggests that you select questions from the list that will best resonate with your participants and feel free to add your own!*

### General Questions

- What issues do you feel Pope Francis spoke to during his address?
- What issue do you feel he challenged Congress members on the most?
- What word or phrase stuck out for you the most? How did the use of this word or phrase make you feel?
- How did today's address help you to grow in your Catholic faith?
- What issue that Pope Francis addressed would you like your (school, parish, etc.) community to become more engaged with?
- Pope Francis offered reflections on a broad range of topics during his address. What issues were most meaningful to you?

### On Dialogue

*It is impossible for peace to exist without dialogue.  
Pope Francis (August 21, 2013)*

Pope Francis has spoken often of the importance of dialogue and consensus building, in what ways could today's address lead to greater dialogue on issues facing our country and our world?

### On Human Dignity

*Human dignity is the same for all human beings: when I trample on the dignity of another, I am trampling on my own.  
Pope Francis (February 25, 2014)*

Core to Catholic Social Teaching is the innate dignity of each human being. How did Pope Francis illuminate this fact in his address today?

### On Engaging in Politics

*We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern.  
Pope Francis (September 2013)*

Pope Francis lived out this statement today by speaking directly to our legislators. How can we as Catholics allow ourselves to be immersed in politics in ways that are life giving and lift up the common good?

## **On Migration & Immigrants**

*It is necessary to respond to the globalization of migration with the globalization of charity and cooperation, in such a way as to make the conditions of migrants more humane.*

*Pope Francis (September 3, 2014)*

Since his election Pope Francis has emphasized charity toward migrants. In what ways did he articulate this message today? How might we live out the spirit of this message in our local community?

## **On Care for Creation**

*It is our profound conviction that the future of the human family depends also on how we safeguard—both prudently and compassionately, with justice and fairness—the gift of creation that our Creator has entrusted to us.*

*Pope Francis (5/25/14, Common Declaration)*

Throughout his encyclical on climate change, *Laudato si'*, Pope Francis emphasized the relationship between care for creation and care the dignity of human beings. How did he illuminate this reality in today's address? How can we illuminate it within our own faith communities?

## **On Economic Inequality**

*As Christians we are called together to eliminate that globalization of indifference which today seems to reign supreme, while building a new civilization of love and solidarity.*

*Pope Francis (July 3, 2013)*

Since his election, Pope Francis has spoken passionately about economic inequality in our world. How did he address this today? How do you feel inequality can be addressed in our society?