Mapping Our Way: Policy and Politics

	Economics	Environment / Energy	Health Care
	■ We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men [and women] are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. **—Declaration of Independence**		
United Nations	■ With a view to the creation of conditions of stability and well-being… the United Nations shall promote: • higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development; • solutions of international economic, social, health, and related problems; and international cultural and educational co-operation	■ December 3, 1968 the UN called for a conference on the environment and established the United Nations Environmental Programme in 1972 to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.	■ To promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom. ■ To promote solutions of international economic, social, health and related problems.
Earth Charter	■ Communities are being undermined. The benefits of development are not shared equitably and the gap between rich and poor is widening. ■ We must realize that when basic needs have been met, human development is primarily about being more, not having more.	■ The global environment with its finite resources is a common concern of all peoples. The protection of Earth's vitality, diversity, and beauty is a sacred trust. ■ The spirit of human solidarity and kinship with all life is strengthened when we live with reverence for the mystery of being, gratitude for the gift of life, and humility regarding the human place in nature.	■ Uphold the right of all, without discrimination, to a natural and social environment supportive of human dignity, bodily health, and spiritual well-being. ■ Everyone shares responsibility for the present and future well-being of the human family and the larger living world.
Catholic Social Teaching	■ The needs of the poor take priority over the desires of the rich; the rights of workers over the maximization of profits; the preservation of the environment over uncontrolled industrial expansion; the production to meet social needs over production for military purposes. —Economic Justice for All ■ Yet the workers' rights cannot be doomed to be the mere result of economic systems aimed at maximum profits. The thing that must shape the whole economy is respect for the workers' rights within each country and all through the world's economy. —John Paul II	■ Faced with widespread destruction of the environment, people everywhere are coming to understand that we cannot continue to use the goods of the Earth as we have in the past… The ecological crisis is a moral issue. —John Paul II ■ Humanity is consuming the resources of the earth and life in an excessive and disordered way, forgetting the earth's own needs and God-given purpose, provoking a rebellion on the part of nature, and overlooking our duties and obligations toward future generations. —Centesimus Annus #37	■ Affordable and accessible health care is an essential safeguard of human life and a fundamental human right. Any plan to reform the nation's health care system must be rooted in values that respect human dignity, protect human life, and meet the unique needs of the poor. We support health care that is affordable and accessible to all. —Faithful Citizenship
Questions	❑ Of the policies and programs that are proposed, what will address the growing inequity between wealth and poverty? ❑ How does U.S. trade policy strengthen economies in the U.S. and globally? ❑ What economic development proposals will address the needs of the poorest countries?	❑ How do proposed initiatives support alternative, renewable and clean energy sources? ❑ How will corporations be held accountable for their environmental impact? ❑ What provisions will be made to promote "green collar" jobs, i.e. environmentally sustainable jobs? ❑ What leadership will be taken in the U.S. to support the Kyoto Protocol?	❑ How does a proposed health care plan make provisions for vulnerable populations, including elderly, children, low-income workers, and immigrants? ❑ Does a health care reform proposal include universal access and affordability for all? Is it affordable and sustainable for society? ❑ What is the role and responsibility of the private sector and government in health care?

Immigration	Life Issues	Peace	
■ We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain to establish this Constitution of the United States of America. **—U.S. Constitution**			
■ Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law. ■ In the exercise of...rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society. —UN Declaration of Human Rights	■ To achieve international co-operation... in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.	■ To maintain international peace and security; ■ To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace; ■ To achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character...	**United Nations**
■ It is imperative that we, the peoples of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life. ■ The emergence of a global civil society is creating new opportunities to build a democratic and humane world. ■ We are at once citizens of different nations and of one world in which the local and global are linked.	■ Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life.	■ We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. ■ Recognize that peace is the wholeness created by right relationships with oneself, other persons, other cultures, other life, Earth, and the larger whole of which all are a part.	**Earth Charter**
■ Our common faith in Jesus Christ moves us to search for ways that favor a spirit of solidarity. It is a faith that transcends borders and bids us to overcome all forms of discrimination and violence so that we may build relationships that are just and loving. —Strangers No Longer ■ Poverty is the cause of most migration. Ultimately elimination of global underdevelopment is the antidote to illegal immigration. —John Paul II, 1995	■ Opposition to abortion and euthanasia does not excuse indifference to those who suffer from poverty, violence and injustice. Any politics of human life must work to resist the violence of war and the scandal of capital punishment. Any politics of human dignity must seriously address issues of racism, poverty, hunger, employment, education, housing, and health care. Therefore, Catholics should eagerly involve themselves as advocates for the weak and marginalized in all these areas. —Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics, U.S. Bishops, 1998	■ Excessive economic, social and cultural inequalities among peoples arouse tensions and conflicts, and are a danger to peace. —On the Development of Peoples #76 ■ If development is the new name for peace, war and preparations for war are the major enemy of the healthy development of peoples. If we take the common good of all humanity as our norm, instead of individual greed, peace would be possible. —On Social Concern #10	**Catholic Social Teaching**
❑ What provisions will be provided for a new worker program with protections and a path to citizenship? ❑ How is family reunification addressed in the policies? ❑ How will international trade policy affect and address the root causes of immigration? ❑ How do policies care for the documented and undocumented?	❑ How is the promotion of a culture of life evident in the policies and programs of the candidates? ❑ Do present U.S. levels of international aid and policies of international trade promote reverence for life? ❑ How does the candidate address issues of racism, poverty, hunger, employment, education, housing and health care?	❑ Do plans regarding Iraq address the multi-faceted and interrelated issues of promoting peace; the needs of our military personnel; and the common good of the Iraqi people and infrastructure? ❑ What is the US plan for a reversal of and reliance on nuclear, chemical and biological weapons? ❑ What principles and practices will guide peaceful means of solving global conflicts?	**Questions**