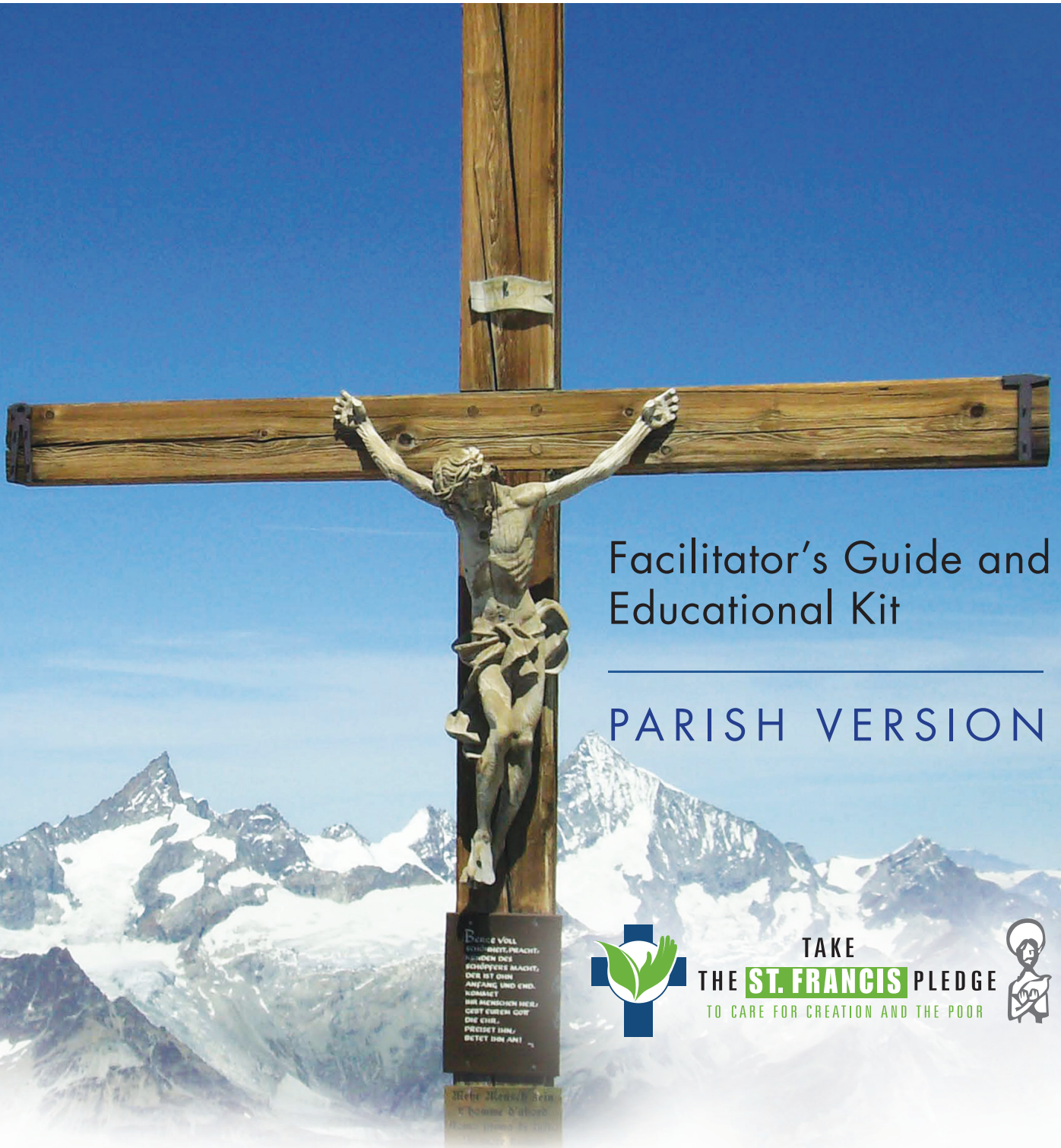


MELTING ICE, MENDING CREATION:

A CATHOLIC APPROACH TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Educational Initiative



Facilitator's Guide and
Educational Kit

PARISH VERSION



TAKE
THE ST. FRANCIS PLEDGE
TO CARE FOR CREATION AND THE POOR



INTRODUCTION



THE CATHOLIC COALITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE THANKS YOU

for joining with thousands of others to conduct an education session highlighting the Pontifical Academy of Science's Working Group (PAS) statement, *Fate of Mountain Glaciers in the Anthropocene*. This year's Feast of St. Francis program will also feature the photographic evidence of climate change and melting glaciers as documented by James Balog and his *Extreme Ice Survey*.

WHAT IS THIS EVENT?

You are joining thousands of Catholics and other people of faith to learn, grow, share, and act on climate change and its impacts on both God's Creation and on the life and dignity of all people, especially the poorest and most vulnerable.

WHY NOW?

Hosting this session around the Feast of St. Francis highlights St. Francis's concern for both Creation and those at the margins of society:

- ✦ Blessed John Paul II named St. Francis of Assisi the *Patron Saint of those who promote ecology*.
- ✦ Pope Francis, who took his name in part to lift up the importance of creation care, has already both inspired us with his humility and challenged us with his words, urging us to make care for Creation and care for the poor a significant part of our Catholic witness:

Let us protect Christ in our lives, so that we can protect others, so that we can protect creation! ~ POPE FRANCIS, MARCH 19, 2013

- ✦ A little-known but important study from the Pontifical Academy of Sciences is due further recognition by Catholics, and its call for action must be better heeded by all. Quoting from the document:

The PAS Working Group calls on all people and nations to recognize the serious and potentially irreversible impacts of human activities that generate excess greenhouse gases and other pollutants as well as by changes in forests, wetlands, grasslands, and other land uses. (p. 1)

While the Coalition is producing these materials for use around the Feast of St. Francis, you should feel free to offer this educational event at any time.

OUTCOMES

AT THE END OF THE 90-MINUTE PROGRAM, YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY WILL:

1. **Understand** more fully the *reality of climate change* and authentic Church teaching on this issue;
2. **Be inspired** by Catholic teaching about climate change and the call to respond;
3. **Deepen awareness** that this call is to BOTH care for God's gift of Creation AND care for the life and dignity of those most impacted by environmental neglect and climate change—namely, the poor and vulnerable;
4. **Engage** both personally and as a community in concrete ways that respond to the Catholic call to be better stewards of Creation and protectors of the vulnerable **by taking the St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor** or other actions;
5. **Build leadership** for future efforts to integrate Catholic values of environmental stewardship, protection of human life and dignity, and outreach to the poor.

WHAT'S IN THIS KIT?

All the materials you will need for a successful Melting Ice, Mending Creation educational event can be accessed in this kit and by going to the [Melting Ice, Mending Creation Resources webpage](#).

PLEASE NOTE: in order to receive the free Prayer Cards which are an integral part of this program, you must also register your participation. See "SIGN UP HERE" on the [Melting Ice, Mending Creation Resource webpage](#).

Promotional materials you will need include "editable" resources that can be modified to fit your needs with blank spaces for suggested text inserts:

1) RESOURCES:

- a) Bulletin Announcement (1 side)
- b) Bulletin Insert (2 sides)
- c) Sample Press Release
- d) Promotional Poster / Flyer

All these promotional resources are available for download here:

[Melting Ice, Mending Creation Resource page](#)

2) FACILITATORS' GUIDE:

Below is a comprehensive guide that will help you make your event successful, and includes suggested prayers, processes, and action steps.

We believe that this program will help you and the Coalition fulfill our mutual goals: **to educate and inspire action on climate change within our faith community.**

But in the end, this is YOUR program. If you feel that you must adapt and modify it based on your particular needs, audience or other factors, please do so.

3) HANDOUTS:

Also included below are other resources you will want to have during your event:

- 1) [St. Francis Pledge Sign Up Sheet](#)
2. [Keep Me Involved in our Diocese/Parish!](#)
- 3) [Resources for Further Study and Action](#) (two pages)
- 4) [Catholic Climate Covenant Partnership – Planning Guide for Dioceses, Parishes and Schools](#)
[Take the St. Francis Pledge](#) (two pages)
- 5) [Book promotion for *Environmental Justice and Climate Change: Assessing Pope Benedict XVI's Ecological Vision for the Catholic Church in the United States*](#)

4) APPENDICES:

We highly recommend that you spend some time reviewing the additional information in the appendices that comes at the end of this document. This will enable you to become well-versed in the current science of and Church teaching on climate change, and provide a certain level of comfort with potentially difficult questions.

Handling Difficult Questions:

We particularly recommend that you take the time to review the Frequently Asked Questions, to which there is a link in APPENDIX A. While it is lengthy, it is also thorough and will help you handle any audience member who voices his/her discontent with either the science of climate change or the Church's involvement in the issue. You are also encouraged to become familiar with the Catholic Teachings page (especially the section on "Climate Change and Population") and Resources page listed in APPENDIX B.

As a facilitator you are encouraged not to allow such a person to dominate the discussion time. Remind her/him that this program is about understanding how the Catholic Church is authentically responding to the issue as articulated by recent popes and other Church leaders, including the U.S. Catholic bishops. Say to that person that you will be happy to try and address her/his concerns at the conclusion of the program.

THE DETAILS

Following is a complete and comprehensive plan to help you with a successful presentation and discussion of these materials. While it is specifically designed for Catholic audiences, anyone of goodwill can undoubtedly benefit from this program.

HOW MUCH TIME DOES THIS PROGRAM NEED?

From the opening introduction to the discussion and activities you should **plan on a total of 90 minutes.**

As you begin your planning, the following information might be helpful in order to enlist others in your organization who can help move the program forward:

WHO SHOULD BE PART OF A “MELTING ICE, MENDING CREATION” EVENT?

Anyone! But make a special effort to invite your pastor, parish council members, and other parishioners. Be sure also to share the information with your diocesan Social Action Director, diocesan or parish peace & justice committee members, and diocesan or parish pro-life committee members and welcome them to attend.

WHERE SHOULD THE EVENT BE HELD?

Try to first determine the potential turnout for the event, as this will dictate the size of the room or hall you might need. Work with your diocesan/parish administration to secure a venue. NOTE: The venue must have access to the Internet OR you should be prepared to have a computer with a separate WIFI connection (for example, tethered to a smart phone or a WIFI card or hotspot).

You will also need a basic audio system to hear the Prezi presentation and film.

Consider purchasing—or seeking a donation for—snacks: drinks, popcorn, etc. Develop signs as necessary to ensure that people know the location, date and time of the event. You can also create a Flyer (see Resources for Publicity below) with information appropriate to your program (date, time, etc.).

Work through the appropriate channels of communication in your diocese/parish to ensure widespread knowledge of the event (e.g., diocesan newsletter and newspaper, parish bulletin, bulletin boards, texting and e-mail systems, diocesan/parish website and social media, etc.).

RESOURCES FOR PUBLICITY

Each of these resources can be modified to fit your needs with blank spaces for suggested text inserts:

- 1) Bulletin Insert/Flyer (1 page)
- 2) Bulletin Insert/Flyer (2 pages)
- 3) Sample Press Release)
- 4) Flyer as a PPT page OR Flyer in editable Word format

All these resources are available for download here: [Melting Ice, Mending Creation Resource page](#)

OTHER MATERIALS NEEDED:

- A comfortable room with enough chairs for your anticipated audience
- A video screen
- A laptop computer
- **An Internet connection**
- A projector

IMPORTANT NOTE: The opening presentation can be found online at: <http://prezi.com/alrfr7z4blzu/melting-ice-mending-creation/>. (There will also be a link to this on the Coalition's website within the Feast of St. Francis 2013 resource materials). This utilizes the Prezi platform. The presentation also includes an embedded copy of the James Balog TED Talk. You will need to open this link at least 10 minutes prior to the start of your program. Additional instructions about how to use this Prezi presentation are embedded in the script below. However, **WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND** that you become familiar with this presentation format well before your event.

HOW TO START THE PRESENTATION: Once you have landed on this Prezi website, click the "full screen" icon in the right corner of the gray bar located below each slide. Next, click on the right arrow button in the middle of the gray bar. Repeat this step at the end of each slide. **DO NOT** click the play button in the left corner of the gray bar, as this will send the presentation into auto-play and disrupt the sequence later in the program.

- Newsprint (enough sheets to provide one for as many groups of 5 to 6 that you anticipate)
 - Markers
 - Clipboards to accommodate the size of your group and to attach the two Sign Up sheets.

- Handouts:

NOTE: Handouts 1 & 2 do not require multiple copies but only as many as you need to capture those who take the St. Francis Pledge (Handout 1) or volunteer to stay involved (Handout 2).

[HANDOUT 1](#) – St. Francis Pledge Sign Up Sheet (one page, see below) to take names of people who wish to commit to fulfilling the St. Francis Pledge.

PLEASE NOTE: While we encourage people to sign up for the St. Francis Pledge on our website, we have also found that a paper sign up sheet is most effective for immediately capturing the excitement generated at group meetings. In order for us to contact those who sign up for the Pledge via the paper sign up sheet, we ask that someone from your group commit to manually entering each signee’s information from HANDOUT 1 onto our website (<http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/the-st-francis-pledge/>) within one week of the event. This is an invaluable step that will help us grow our network of supporters. We thank you in advance for your generous commitment of time. REMINDER: Please ask people to write their email addresses legibly.

[HANDOUT 2](#) – Keep Me Involved in Our Diocese/Parish! (one page, see below) for people interested in continuing to discuss the film and ways to implement Catholic mission-based sustainability projects in your diocese or parish,

[HANDOUT 3](#) – Resources for Further Study and Action (two pages, see below. As many copies as there are participants.)

[HANDOUT 4](#) – *Catholic Climate Covenant Partnership – Planning Guide for Parishes and Schools to Take the St. Francis Pledge* (two pages, see below) to be shared when you offer tools and ideas after Group Discussion. (NOTE: If this is a diocesan or multi-parish event, you may need to provide as many copies as parishes represented. Otherwise a few samples should be enough.)

[HANDOUT 5](#) – Book promotion for *Environmental Justice and Climate Change, Assessing Pope Benedict XVI’s Ecological Vision for the Catholic Church in the United States*

- St. Francis Prayer Cards: these will be mailed to you prior to your event date—enough for the number of people you indicated when you registered for the event.
- Optional: Drinks (soft drinks, coffee, etc.), snacks

THE SCRIPT

Following is a comprehensive set of directions and a suggested script that you, as the facilitator, might wish to follow. Directions are in regular font, suggested text to convey to your group is in *italics*.

Distribute Prayer Cards: as people arrive or place them on chairs.

INTRODUCTION AND OPENING PRAYER (5 MINUTES):

Tonight we are going through a process that will help us all understand authentic Catholic teaching on climate change, recognize that human-caused climate change is happening now, and appreciate how climate change is impacting people around the world today. What we hope is that this will begin a serious conversation about the links between their plight and our own ability to make a difference here and now. We will encourage your thoughts and ideas about what we can do to make a difference — both individually and as a group (name your group).

But before we begin, let us take a moment and say together the Prayer of St. Francis found on the prayer cards you were given as you came in.

After the prayer:

First we will view a brief slide presentation outlining both authentic Church teaching on climate change and a special report from the Pontifical Academy of Sciences on how climate change is impacting glaciers around the world.

Next we will see a TED talk video by James Balog, a science photographer who has documented the changing glaciers around the world. Through the use of time lapse photography, Balog has compiled the “Extreme Ice Survey,” one of the most impressive catalogues of visual evidence showing the impact of human-caused climate change. Then we will open up for a discussion.

PART 1: Climate Change and Catholic Teaching

Play the Prezi presentation slides 1-23 (approx 10 minutes). You will stop this portion of the presentation at slide 23 before going to PART 2. These first 23 slide are narrated with embedded audio.

PLEASE NOTE: You or a helper will need to advance the slides during the presentation. Once you have landed on this Prezi website, click the “full screen” icon in the right corner of the gray bar located below each slide. Next, click on the right arrow button in the middle of the gray bar. Repeat this step at the end of each slide. **DO NOT** click the play button in the left corner of the gray bar, as this will send the presentation into auto-play and disrupt the sequence later in the program.

Discussion about the Report (5 minutes)

The report says that examining rates of glacial melt offers the “clearest evidence we have for a change in the climate system” and that “human-induced changes in carbon-dioxide... are taking place on 10-100 year timescales – 100 times as fast” as past 10,000 year time scales.

How does this evidence strike you? Please turn to your neighbor and offer your initial thoughts (2 minutes). Now, does anyone wish to share their brief thoughts with the group? (3 minutes).

PART 2: VISUAL EVIDENCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE (20 MINUTES)

Now we turn to the TED talk about receding glaciers around the world.

Play Prezi slides 24-26.

Play Prezi slides 24-26. The TED Talk is embedded on slide 26, and when you arrive at this slide, click the black box to start the film and move your cursor to the side to hide the gray bar at the bottom of the film. (20 minutes). (If in the unlikely event you cannot get this to play properly, you can view the film at: http://www.ted.com/talks/james_balog_time_lapse_proof_of_extreme_ice_loss.html)

After the film, say:

Let us take a moment in silence to briefly reflect on what we just saw.

DISCUSSION ABOUT THE FILM (15 MINUTES)

In order to get a conversation started about the presentation, you might want to begin with a few provocative questions.

What are your immediate reactions to the images and information in the TED talk? How did it make you feel? Please turn again to your neighbor and share your initial thoughts (2 minutes).

Now does anyone wish to share one word with the group that expresses their initial reaction to the film? (3 minutes)

It is recommended that you ask people to pair off and share with each other their thoughts to the following questions for 5 minutes. Then, everyone should reconvene to share in the larger group for an additional 5 minutes (10 minutes):

IN PAIRS:

- *Did viewing the images from The Extreme Ice Survey “shape the way you think” (as James Balog says):*
 - *About climate change?*
 - *About the role of humans with respect to climate change?*
- *James Balog says: “Ice is the global canary in the coal mine... where we can see, and touch, and hear and feel climate change in action.” What human communities might also be viewed as a “canary in the coal mine” of climate change?*

IN LARGE GROUP:

- *James Balog says: “We don’t have a problem of politics and policy we have a problem of perception”*
 - *How do you experience climate change as a perception problem?*
 - *How can we change this perception problem? (List these on newsprint and revisit during the Take Action section)*
- *James Balog calls this present crisis “An opportunity to face the greatest challenge of our generation, in fact, of our century.”*
 - *What sense of calling do you have about this? How do you feel about meeting the challenge of this calling? What resources do you need to “face” this challenge?*

PART 3: OUR RESPONSE—UNDERSTANDING CHURCH TEACHING AND TAKING ACTION:

(30 MINUTES INCLUDING OPTIONAL ACTIVITY*)

Advance to Prezi slide number 28 which lists the eight principles below. You may wish to have eight audience members read them in succession after you introduce this segment. A few second pause would allow the listener a brief reflection after each is read.

In this last section of our program we'll look at some concrete actions we can take to respond to human-caused climate change.

The Catholic approach to climate change is framed by at least eight core elements of Church teaching that can help inform our response to climate change.

As you hear these principles, reflect on how they relate to what we have seen and discussed today and how they inform our response to climate change.

1. **prudence** invites us to act based on thoughtful, reasoned analysis;
2. all of creation is endowed by God with **intrinsic goodness**;
3. **human life and human dignity** are compromised by the adverse effects of climate change;
4. **poor and vulnerable people**, to whom and for whose needs we must show a preferential option, are disproportionately impacted by climate change.
5. **justice** demands a wide-eyed recognition that those contributing most to the problem and those facing its worst impacts are not the same group;
6. the **common good** recognizes that creation is a gift intended for all;
7. **solidarity** encourages us to recognize the kinship shared by all of creation—human and non-human;
8. **hospitality** calls us to welcome the stranger with love and compassion.

The Vatican report boldly claims that a “business-as-usual model will not be possible because of both resource depletion and environmental damages.” Given the elements of Catholic tradition that the Church uses to frame the issue of climate change, let's now examine some responses to address the climate crisis.

* GOING DEEPER: AN OPTIONAL ACTIVITY (15 MINUTES)

The Vatican report boldly claims that a “business-as-usual model will not be possible because of both resource depletion and environmental damages.”

Given the eight principles of Catholic teaching that the Church uses to frame the issue of climate change, let's now examine some responses to address the climate crisis. Let's engage in (choose A or B)

(A) **a visioning process.** What would our society look like if it was informed by Catholic teaching on creation care and climate change rather than “business as usual”? What changes—individual and structural—would we need to make?

(B) **brainstorming ideas** (“popcorn” technique—people offer brief phrases) that present alternatives to the “business as usual” model based on Catholic teaching.

SO NOW WHAT? (15 MINUTES)

Now that the group has understood the PAS document, seen the TED talk and discussed core principles, it is time to move to action. For many, they may be feeling a sense of hopelessness. Others will want to leap into action. But actions can help move people forward. They might be small and personal or larger and corporate. But the goal should be to move everyone to commit to something. You can say:

After seeing and understanding the evidence of climate change and reflecting on our Church's teaching, you may be feeling a bit hopeless. Before we consider ways that we can respond in faith to human-caused climate change, let's first recall the words of Pope Francis at the 2013 World Youth Day (advance to Prezi slide 29).

To you and to all, I repeat: never yield to discouragement, do not lose trust, do not allow your hope to be extinguished. Situations can change, people can change. Be the first to seek to bring good, do not grow accustomed to evil, but defeat it. The Church is with you, bringing you the precious good of faith, bringing Jesus Christ, who "came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (Jn 10:10).

Inspired by these words, many of us are likely asking the question: What can we do in response to human-caused climate change? I'd like to share some ideas from the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change. One action is to take the St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor. For those of you who may have already taken the Pledge, consider how well you have implemented it in your daily life. The Pledge contains 5 parts.

Advance to Prezi slide number 30.

Let's read the St. Francis Pledge together:

I/We Pledge to:

- + PRAY and reflect on the duty to care for God's Creation and protect the poor and vulnerable.*
- + LEARN about and educate others on the causes and moral dimensions of climate change.*
- + ASSESS how we-as individuals and in our families, parishes and other affiliations contribute to climate change by our own energy use, consumption, waste, etc.*
- + ACT to change our choices and behaviors to reduce the ways we contribute to climate change.*
- + ADVOCATE for Catholic principles and priorities in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they impact those who are poor and vulnerable.*

Taking the Pledge or acting on the Pledge if you have already committed to it can move us forward with greater care for all God's creation so that we can be in solidarity with those who have contributed the least to climate change.

I would also encourage you to register your Pledge on the Coalition's website. You'll then be able to stay abreast of all of the wonderful things happening in the Catholic community on climate change both in the US and around the world. To make it easier tonight, however, we have a sign up sheet that you can fill out.

NAME OF THE PERSON has generously agreed to enter all of the collected St. Francis Pledge information onto the Coalition's website within a week. (Pass around clipboards with HANDOUT 1: St. Francis Pledge Sign Up Form or tell people where to sign the St. Francis Pledge sheet. Please remind them to write their name and email addresses legibly.)

Additionally, we encourage you to connect with the Coalition on social media by *LIKING* them on facebook at www.facebook.com/catholicclimatecovenant and following them on [Twitter@CatholicClimate](https://twitter.com/CatholicClimate).

More great tools are available from the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change and its partners that we may wish to consider. These are listed on the Resources Handout that you can pick up on the way out the door tonight. Allow me to highlight two of them:

- The first is designed especially for parishes and schools: *Planning Guide for Dioceses, Parishes and Schools to Take the St. Francis Pledge*. This Guide offers step-by-step suggestions to help you plan and meet with diocesan/parish decision makers about joining the Catholic Climate Covenant by institutionally endorsing of the St. Francis Pledge. It also offers resources and ideas by which the diocese/parish can fulfill the five aspects of the Pledge.

Hold up and pass around **HANDOUT 4 – Catholic Climate Covenant Partnership–Planning Guide for Dioceses, Parishes and Schools to Take the St. Francis Pledge**).

- Next is a book titled *Environmental Justice and Climate Change Assessing Pope Benedict XVI's Ecological Vision for the Catholic Church in the United States*. The edited volume contains a series of twelve essays plus a keynote address and a homily that were delivered at a 2012 conference on the ecological vision of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI that was sponsored by the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the Catholic University of America and its Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies.

Hold up and pass around **HANDOUT 5 – Environmental Justice and Climate Change Assessing Pope Benedict XVI's Ecological Vision for the Catholic Church in the United States**.

- Finally, I would recommend we consider ways to connect with Catholic Relief Services. Their *Catholics Confront Global Poverty Campaign* is a great way to stay informed about global poverty issues including climate impacts. It can also help us as individuals and as a group fulfill the "Advocacy" part of the St. Francis Pledge that we discussed a few minutes ago. CRS partners with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops on this project and it provides a good forum for us to advocate for policies that reduce global poverty. Our voices will join with others to call for, among other things, international aid to "climate refugees" and assistance for adaptation efforts in some of the poorest countries around the world. The website is www.crs.org/globalpoverty.

Try to find volunteers who are willing to commit to further reflection/action. (3 minutes)

And now, as we conclude our time together, we want to ask those of you present: *Who here would like to continue this discussion into the future and help develop a faith-based climate action plan for our community? Please raise your hands.* (Hold up and pass around HANDOUT 2—the "Keep Me Involved in our Diocese/Parish!" form—this is separate from the St. Francis Pledge signup form, see below. OR point it out in the room. Ideally it should be at the exit or on the refreshment table if you are providing food and drink. Ask them to please write their contact information **legibly**.)

Set a date for follow-up.

If you are interested in thinking through other actions we might take, please add your name and contact information to this form. We will send out an email to all of you who expressed interest, to set the next date for follow-up on this project.

CONCLUSION (1 MINUTE)

Thank everyone for coming and urge them to stay informed and engaged.

Thank you all for coming to this important event to(day, night). I know there were a number of ideas generated in the last half hour or so. I hope you can commit to some of these individual actions, but I also hope that a core of us can meet again to discuss ways in which we can encourage greater action within our diocese/parish.

Finally, let's close by reading together the declaration by the Pontifical Academy of Science's Working Group together.

Advance to Prezi slide 31.

Together we say:

We call on all people and nations to recognize the serious and potentially irreversible impacts of global warming caused by the anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, and by changes in forests, wetlands, grasslands, and other land uses. We appeal to all nations to develop and implement, without delay, effective and fair policies to reduce the causes and impacts of climate change on communities and ecosystems, including mountain glaciers and their watersheds, aware that we all live in the same home.

By acting now, in the spirit of common but differentiated responsibility, we accept our duty to one another and to the stewardship of a planet blessed with the gift of life. We are committed to ensuring that all inhabitants of this planet receive their daily bread, fresh air to breathe and clean water to drink as we are aware that, if we want justice and peace, we must protect the habitat that sustains us. The believers among us ask God to grant us this wish.

APPENDIX A

About the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change

In 2006, the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change was launched with the support of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and funding from the National Religious Partnership for the Environment. The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change supports and complements USCCB's Environmental Justice Program which is under the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development. The Coalition is a membership organization consisting of fourteen national Catholic organizations which offer advice and assistance in implementing its programs:

- From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:
 - Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development
 - Migration and Refugee Services
- Catholic Charities USA
- Catholic Relief Services
- Catholic Health Association of the United States
- Conference of Major Superiors of Men
- National Catholic Rural Life Conference
- Franciscan Action Network
- National Council of Catholic Women
- Leadership Conference of Women Religious
- Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
- Carmelite NGO
- National Catholic Education Association
- National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry
- Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Learn more at: <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/about-us/>

Frequently Asked Questions

As stated above, we encourage all facilitators to read through the Coalition's **Frequently Asked Questions** document to understand more clearly questions about climate change and faith, climate change science, political considerations and economic (and poverty) arguments. That link can be accessed here: <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/FAQ-2010.pdf>

You may also wish to review "Catholic Perspectives on Climate Change and Population: <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/catholic-teachings/climate-change-population/>.

APPENDIX B

Catholic Quotations About Climate Change

The Catholic Church has explicitly and repeatedly addressed climate change as a moral issue and calls on all people of faith and good will to respond prudently. Below are a select number of quotations which outline the Church's authentic teaching about climate change. For more, visit <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/catholic-teachings/>.

Pope Francis:

"[T]here is a moment in which man goes too far in this task [of subduing the Earth]; he gets overly zealous and loses respect for nature. Then ecological problems arise, like global warming, which are new forms of non-culture." (*On Heaven and Earth: Pope Francis on Faith, Family, and the Church in the Twenty-First Century*, p. 5)

"Take good care of creation. St. Francis wanted that. People occasionally forgive, but nature never does. If we don't take care of the environment, there's no way of getting around it." (meeting with the President of Ecuador, April 22, 2013)

"The Church is likewise conscious of the responsibility which all of us have for our world, for the whole of creation, which we must love and protect [. . .] In this, we also sense our closeness to all those men and women who, although not identifying themselves as followers of any religious tradition, are nonetheless searching for truth, goodness and beauty, the truth, goodness and beauty of God. They are our valued allies in the commitment to defending human dignity, in building a peaceful coexistence between peoples and in safeguarding and caring for creation." (Address to Representatives of the Churches and Ecclesial Communities and of the Different Religions, March 20, 2013)

"Let us protect Christ in our lives, so that we can protect others, so that we can protect creation! The vocation of being a 'protector', however, is not just something involving us Christians alone; it also has a prior dimension which is simply human, involving everyone. It means protecting all creation, the beauty of the created world, as the Book of Genesis tells us and as Saint Francis of Assisi showed us [. . .] In the end, everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it. Be protectors of God's gifts! [. . .] Please, I would like to ask all those who have positions of responsibility in economic, political and social life, and all men and women of goodwill: let us be "protectors" of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment. Let us not allow omens of destruction and death to accompany the advance of this world! But to be "protectors", we also have to keep watch over ourselves! Let us not forget that hatred, envy and pride defile our lives!" (Homily at the Mass of the Imposition of the Pallium and Bestowal of the Fisherman's ring for the Beginning of the Petrine Ministry of the Bishop of Rome, March 19, 2013)

Pope Benedict XVI:

"The Convention of the United Nations Organization on climate change and the Kyoto Protocol will begin tomorrow in Durban, South Africa. I hope that all the members of the international community will agree on a responsible, credible and supportive response to this worrying and complex phenomenon, taking into account the needs of the poorest populations and of the generations to come." (Angelus November 27, 2011)

"Can we remain indifferent before the problems associated with such realities as climate change . . . ?" (2010 World Day of Peace Message, No. 4)

"Similar attention also needs to be paid to the world-wide problem of water and to the global water cycle system, which is of prime importance for life on earth and whose stability could be seriously jeopardized by climate change. Suitable strategies for rural development centered on small farmers and their families should be explored, as well as the implementation of appropriate policies for the management of forests, for waste disposal and for strengthening the linkage between combating climate change and overcoming poverty." (2010 World Day of Peace Message, No. 10)

"I also wish to offer my support to leaders of governments and international agencies who soon will meet at the United Nations to discuss the urgent issue of climate change." (2009 Message to Copenhagen Climate Change Conference—15th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)

"The protection of the environment, and the safeguarding of resources and of the climate, oblige all leaders to act jointly, respecting the law and promoting solidarity with the weakest regions of the world." (Encyclical Letter *Caritas in Veritate*, No. 50)

"At a time of world food shortage, of financial turmoil, of old and new forms of poverty, of disturbing climate change, of violence and deprivation which force many to leave their homelands in search of a less precarious form of existence, of the ever-present threat of terrorism, of growing fears over the future, it is urgent to rediscover grounds for hope." (*Urbi et Orbi*, Easter 2009)

"Preservation of the environment, promotion of sustainable development and particular attention to climate change are matters of grave concern for the entire human family." (2007 Letter of His Holiness Benedict XVI to the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople on the Occasion of the Seventh Symposium of the Religion, Science and the Environment Movement)

Pope John Paul II:

"The danger of serious damage to land and sea, and to the climate, flora and fauna, calls for a profound change in modern civilization's typical consumer life-style, particularly in the richer countries." (1999 World Day of Peace Message, No. 10)

"The gradual depletion of the ozone layer and the related 'greenhouse effect' has now reached crisis proportions as a consequence of industrial growth, massive urban concentrations and vastly increased energy needs. Industrial waste, the burning of fossil fuels, unrestricted deforestation, the use of certain types of herbicides, coolants and propellants: all of these are known to harm the atmosphere and environment. The resulting meteorological and atmospheric changes range from damage to health to the possible future submersion of low-lying lands." (1999 World Day of Peace Message)

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

"Climate change is at the center of the environmental challenges facing our nation and the world. Our response to global climate change raises fundamental questions of morality and justice, fairness and shared sacrifice. People living in poverty—both at home and abroad—contribute least to climate change but they are likely to suffer its worst consequences with few resources to adapt and respond. The impacts of climate change - including increased temperatures, rising sea levels, and changes in rainfall that contribute to more frequent and severe floods and droughts - are making the lives of the world's poorest even more precarious. Urgent action that both addresses the growing impact of climate change and acts to protect the poor and vulnerable is needed." (Global Climate Change, 2011)

"The Catholic Church brings a distinct perspective to the debate about climate change by lifting up the moral dimensions of this issue and the needs of the most vulnerable among us." (*Global Climate Change, 2011*)

"Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI has continually emphasized the moral dimensions of climate change and our responsibility to care for creation." (*Global Climate Change and our Catholic Response, 2010*)

"In facing climate change, what we already know requires a response; it cannot be easily dismissed. Significant levels of scientific consensus—even in a situation with less than full certainty, where the consequences of not acting are serious—justifies, indeed can obligate, our taking action intended to avert potential dangers. In other words, if enough evidence indicates that the present course of action could jeopardize humankind's well-being, prudence dictates taking mitigating or preventative action." (*Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good*)

"At its core, global climate change is not about economic theory or political platforms, nor about partisan advantage or interest group pressures. It is about the future of God's creation and the one human family. It is about protecting both 'the human environment' and the natural environment. It is about our human stewardship of God's creation and our responsibility to those who come after us." (*Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good*)

HANDOUT 2



Keep Me Involved with Parish/School!

Please neatly fill out the following if you are interested in helping our parish/school to more fully care for God's good gift of Creation.

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	EMAIL (PRINT CLEARLY)

Resources for Further Study and Action

FOR FURTHER READING ABOUT AUTHENTIC CATHOLIC TEACHING ON CREATION CARE & CLIMATE CHANGE, SEE:

- Pope Benedict XVI. 2010 World Day of Peace Message: If you Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation. Vatican: Holy See. 2010. http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/peace/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20091208_xliii-world-day-peace_en.html
- Pope Benedict XVI. Encyclical Letter Caritas in Veritate. Vatican: Holy See. 2009. http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/encyclicals/documents/hf_ben-xvi_enc_20090629_caritas-in-veritate_en.html. See in particular Chapter 4, Paragraphs 43-52.
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good. Washington, D.C.: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2001. <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/global-climate-change-a-plea-for-dialogue-prudence-and-the-common-good.cfm>
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Renewing the Earth: An Invitation to Reflection & Action on the Environment in Light of Catholic Social Teaching. . Washington, D.C.: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1991. <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/renewing-the-earth.cfm>
- Pope John Paul II. 1990 World Day of Peace Message: Peace with God the Creator, Peace with all Creation. Vatican: Holy See, 1990. http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/messages/peace/documents/hf_jp-ii_mes_19891208_xxiii-world-day-for-peace_en.html
- Lieberman, Bruce. The Catholic Church and Climate Change. New Haven, C.T.: The Yale Forum on Climate Change & the Media, 2012. <http://www.yaleclimatemediaforum.org/2012/02/the-catholic-church-and-climate-change/>

FOR CURRICULUM AND GROUP STUDY RESOURCES ABOUT AUTHENTIC CATHOLIC TEACHING ON CREATION CARE & CLIMATE CHANGE, SEE:

- JustFaith Ministries' JustFaith Module: God's Creation Cries for Justice. Climate Change: Impact and Response. The approach to global climate change by the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change and the Catholic Bishops' Environmental Justice Program has been to focus on the themes of prudence, poverty and the common good, as well as Catholic social teaching. This eight-session module expands and explores these principles and has a strong emphasis on how climate change will impact the poor at home and abroad. It draws out arguments for and against action, and demonstrates—through both faith and science—the hazards to poor people of doing nothing. http://www.justfaith.org/programs/justmatters-m_godscreation.html
- Friendng Planet Earth: Helping Youth Understand Solidarity and Sustainability in Light of Climate Change—A six session learning program designed for high school-aged students (in schools or in youth groups). This resource was developed in partnership with the Center for Ministry Development. <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/>

FOR ADVOCACY AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES AROUND AUTHENTIC CATHOLIC TEACHING ON CREATION CARE & CLIMATE CHANGE, SEE:

Catholics Confront Global Poverty <http://crs.org/globalpoverty/> from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Relief Services and the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change. See in particular Global Climate Change and our Catholic Response: http://old.usccb.org/sdwp/globalpoverty/ccgp_issues_climatechange.shtml

MELTING ICE, MENDING CREATION: A Catholic Approach to Climate Change

Resources for Further Study and Action

To help the Church understand and apply the commitments of an authentically Catholic worldview, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) outlines Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching (<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/seven-themes-of-catholic-social-teaching.cfm>):

1. Life and Dignity of the Human Person
2. Call to Family, Community, and Participation
3. Rights and Responsibilities
4. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
5. The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers
6. Solidarity
7. Care for God's Creation

Each of these commitments is an important dimension of Catholic social teaching. However, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith points out that while each principle individually contributes to the Truth of Church teaching, these principles are dynamically related to one another and should therefore not be seen or applied in isolation from one another:

"The Christian faith is an integral unity, and thus it is incoherent to isolate some particular element to the detriment of the whole of Catholic doctrine" (Doctrinal Note on some Questions regarding the Participation of Catholics in Political Life, 2002).

Many people recognize that climate change relates to Care for God's Creation, however fewer have recognized that the issues of climate change and Care for God's Creation engage all of the other central commitments that make up Catholic social teaching; as Pope John Paul II reminds us:

"[W]e cannot interfere in one area of the ecosystem without paying due attention both to the consequences of such interference in other areas and to the well-being of future generations" (1990 World Day of Peace Message, No. 6)

WHILE CLIMATE CHANGE IS THUS CONNECTED TO ALL SEVEN KEY THEMES, THE ISSUE IS PARTICULARLY RELATED TO:

1. Life and Dignity of the Human Person

- "Our tradition calls us to protect the life and dignity of the human person, and it is increasingly clear that this task cannot be separated from the care and defense of all of creation." (USCCB, *Renewing the Earth: An Invitation to Reflection and Action on the Environment in Light of Catholic Social Teaching*, 1991).
- "[H]ow can we separate, or even set at odds, the protection of the environment and the protection of human life, including the life of the unborn?" (Pope Benedict XVI, 2010 Address to the Diplomatic Corps).
- "The way humanity treats the environment influences the way it treats itself, and vice versa" (Pope Benedict XVI, Encyclical Letter *Caritas in Veritate*, 2009, No. 51).

4. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

- "People living in poverty—both at home and abroad—contribute least to climate change but they are likely to suffer its worst consequences with few resources to adapt and respond." (USCCB & Catholic Relief Services, *Catholics Confront Global Poverty*, 2010).
- "The effects of climate change—increasingly limited access to water, reduced crop yields, more widespread disease, increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters, and conflict over declining resources—are making the lives of the world's poorest people even more precarious." (USCCB & Catholic Relief Services, *Catholics Confront Global Poverty*, 2010).
- "[E]nvironmental degradation makes the life of the poor especially unbearable." (Pope Benedict XVI, *Angelus* August 27, 2006).

For more, visit <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/Climate-Change-and-Catholic-Social-Teaching.pdf>



Catholic Climate Covenant Partnership – Planning Guide for Dioceses, Parishes and Schools to Take the St. Francis Pledge

*The Catholic Climate Covenant: **The St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor** is widely embraced by the Catholic community. More than forty five national Catholic organizations have publicly affirmed their commitment to Catholic mission-based sustainability by endorsing the St. Francis Pledge as a Catholic Climate Covenant Partner. Dozens of parishes have become Partners, as have seven dioceses/archdioceses:*

In September 2011, the Coalition published a step-by-step Planning Guide for Dioceses, Parishes and Schools to Take the St. Francis Pledge, available for free download at:

<http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Parish-Planning-Guide-FINAL.pdf>.

In the guide, you will find tips and suggestions to help you:

- Prepare for a meeting with diocesan/parish/school decision makers;
- Meet with decision makers;
- Convene a committee/key stakeholders.

*The **Planning Guide** also has links to resources for you to promote and integrate the St. Francis Pledge into the life of your diocese/parish. These resources include:*

- Catholic Climate Ambassadors (trained speakers to available to offer presentations at your diocese/parish);
- *Friending Planet Earth: Helping Youth Understand Climate Change and Respond in Faith*;
- *The Franciscan Action Network's C4C (Care for Creation) program*;
- *God's Creation Cries for Justice- A Faithful Response to Climate Change (a module from the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change and JustFaith)*;
- *St. Francis Pledge implementation suggestions from the Archdiocese of Hartford*;
- *Global Climate Change: A Catholic Response – a five-session study guide from the National Catholic Rural Life Conference.*

*To download a free copy of **Planning Guide for Dioceses, Parishes and Schools to Take the St. Francis Pledge**, visit <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Parish-Planning-Guide-FINAL.pdf>*

HANDOUT 4 (PAGE 2 OF 2)



Catholic Climate Covenantsm
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Catholic Climate Covenant Partnership – Planning Guide for Dioceses, Parishes and Schools to Take the St. Francis Pledge

WHAT

Official endorsement of the Catholic Climate Covenant: *The St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor*, by which the diocese/parish commits itself to:

- PRAY and reflect on the duty to care for God’s Creation and protect the poor and vulnerable;
- LEARN about and educate others on the causes and moral dimensions of climate change and environmental degradation;
- ASSESS how we-as individuals and in our families, parishes and other affiliations-contribute to climate change and environmental degradation;
- ACT to change our choices and behaviors to reduce the ways we contribute to climate change and environmental degradation;
- ADVOCATE for Catholic principles and priorities in climate change and environmental discussions and decisions, especially as they impact those who are poor and vulnerable.

WHY

Recognize that caring for God’s good gift of Creation is a requisite part of Christian life (mission fidelity)

- *“Christians, in particular, realize that their responsibility within creation and their duty towards nature and the Creator are an essential part of their faith.”* – Pope John Paul II, 1990 World Day of Peace Message, no. 15

Appreciate the unique contributions of Catholic mission to sustainability (mission integration)

- Creation as God’s good gift to be “cultivate[d] and care[d] for” (Genesis 2:15)
- Environmental degradation compromises additional Catholic commitments
 - Protect and defend human life and dignity: *“[H]ow can we separate, or even set at odds, the protection of the environment and the protection of human life, including the life of the unborn?”* –Pope Benedict XVI, 2010 Message to the Diplomatic Corps
 - Exercise a fundamental option for the poor and vulnerable: *“Environmental degradation makes the life of the poor especially unbearable.”* –Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus, August 27, 2006

Stand in solidarity with 45+ Catholic organizations that have become Partners by endorsing the *St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor*

HOW

Notify the Coalition of institutional endorsement by sending an email to:
info@catholicsandclimatechange.org

THEN WHAT

- **Diocese/Parish**
 - Publicize Partnership
 - Encourage diocesan/parish community members to take the Pledge & register commitments at www.catholicclimatecovenant.org
 - Convene a *St. Francis Pledge* Committee and discern a diocesan/parish Catholic Mission-Based Sustainability Plan
 - Link to Coalition from diocesan/parish website
- **Coalition:**
 - Add institution’s name to Partner list
 - Promote institutional stories in weekly Newsletter
 - Facilitate communication between and among PartnersDevelop resources (pastoral, ministerial, etc.) university Partners

HANDOUT 5



Coming in November 2013:

***Environmental Justice and Climate Change,
Assessing Pope Benedict XVI's Ecological Vision
for the Catholic Church in the United States***

Lexington Press. Pages: 322

978-0-7391-8380-9 Hardback \$100 (£59.95)

978-0-7391-8381-6 eBook \$99.99 (£59.95)

The book will contain twelve essays by lay, ordained, and religious Catholic theologians and scholars, along with a presentation and a homily by bishops, reflecting on the ecological commitments of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI (called 'the green pope') found in his writings, statements, and practical initiatives. To learn more and order copies, [visit http://roman.com/ISBN/9780739183809](http://roman.com/ISBN/9780739183809).

Edited by Jame Schaefer and Tobias Winright

Contributions by Mary Ashley; Michael Baur; John T. Brinkman; David Clothier; Anselma Dolcich-Ashley; Elizabeth Groppe; Scott G. Hefelfinger; Kevin W. Irwin; Bishop Donald Kettler; Christiana Z. Peppard; Jame Schaefer; Bishop Bernard Unabali; Jeremiah Vallery; Keith Douglass Warner; Matthew Philipp Whelan and Tobias Winright

Environmental Justice and Climate Change, Assessing Pope Benedict XVI's Ecological Vision for the Catholic Church in the United States contains twelve essays by lay, ordained, and religious Catholic theologians and scholars, along with a presentation and a homily by bishops and explores four key areas in connection with Benedict XVI's teachings: human and natural ecology/human life and dignity; solidarity, justice, poverty and the common good; sacramentality of creation; and our Catholic faith in action. The product of mutual collaboration by bishops, scholars and staff, this anthology provides the most thorough treatment of Benedict XVI's contributions to ecological teaching and offers fruitful directions for advancing concern among Catholics in the United States about ongoing threats to the integrity of Earth.