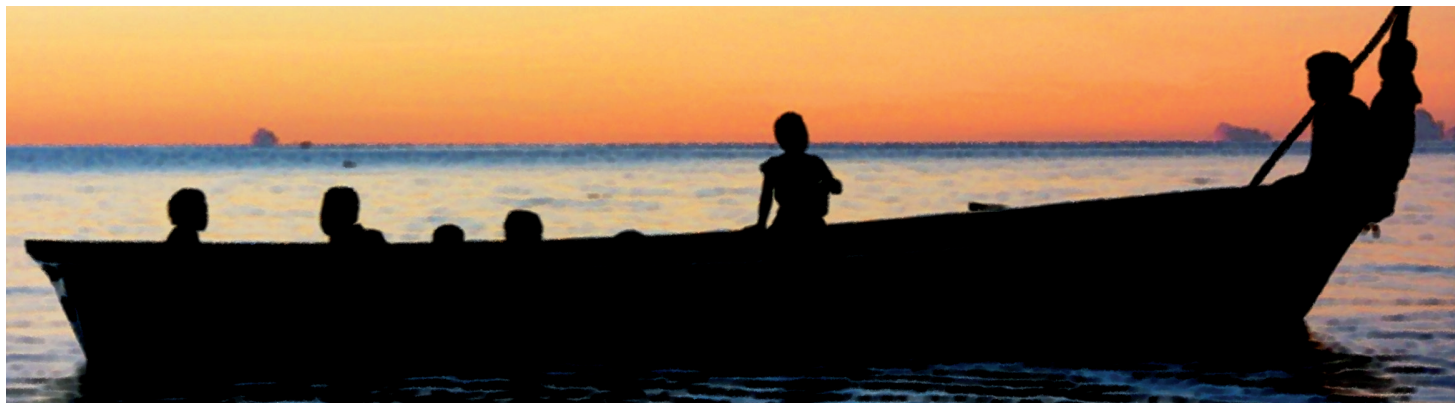




Catholic Climate Covenant
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

SUN COME UP

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVE



Facilitator's Guide and Educational Kit
COLLEGE VERSION

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of all of the partners of the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, we thank you for your willingness to join thousands of other Catholics and people of goodwill to share in this nationwide screening event with your community.

Climate change is no longer an abstraction for many, especially those already vulnerable to nature's unpredictability: poor people at home in the United States and millions abroad. For them, climate change is a threat multiplier: making their difficult lives even tougher.

Yet for many of us in the United States, climate change remains an abstraction: something that is too complicated to understand or solve, too remote—both geographically and temporally—and has very little day-to-day impact on our lives.

The film *Sun Come Up* and this education kit and process are designed to personalize and concretize what is already happening to many of our brothers and sisters in the poorest places around the world.

1 OUTCOMES

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

1. Understand more fully the consequences of a warming planet for those on the margins of society;
 2. Appreciate that the Catholic Church is already engaged in this issue both at home and abroad;
 3. See clearly that the hallmarks of this engagement by the Catholic community (indeed any person of faith) are to highlight and work for BOTH the care of God's gift of Creation AND the care of those most impacted by environmental neglect, including 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;**
 5. Build leadership for future efforts to integrate Catholic values of environmental stewardship and outreach to the poor.
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WHAT'S IN THIS KIT?

With the exception of the *Sun Come Up* DVD itself, all the materials you will need for a successful screening and educational event can be accessed in this kit and by going to the **Sun Come Up Resource** page: <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/sun-come-up-screening/>

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" under HOW TO PARTICIPATE on the *Sun Come Up* Resource page.

ORDERING THE DVD:

You will need to order the DVD directly from the [distributor](#) (New Day Films). Purchase price with the **discount for a “Community Group”** is \$65 (instead of \$129)+ shipping. Rental is \$11 (instead of \$75) + shipping. **Discount:** On the right of the screen you will see a place to select **“Community Group”** for the discount. Add to your cart and continue to checkout.

OTHER MATERIALS NEEDED INCLUDE:

1) RESOURCES:

1. Bulletin Announcement
2. Bulletin Insert (two pages)
3. Sample Press Release designed for custom editing
4. Flyer as a PPT page OR Flyer in Editable Word format

All these resources can be downloaded from the Sun Come Up Resource page:

<http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/sun-come-up-screening/>

2) FACILITATORS GUIDE (below): Here you will find everything you need to make your screening successful: suggested prayers, processes, and action steps.

It also contains a “script” that we suggest you use for this process. The script reflects the ideas and suggestions of several focus groups and was developed in careful consultation with other Coalition partners. We believe that it 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 this program based on your particular needs or constraints, please do so.

3) HANDOUTS (IN APPENDIX):

1. St. Francis Pledge Sign Up Sheet
2. *Keep Me Involved On Campus!*
3. *Resources for Further Study and Action* (two pages)
4. *Catholic Climate Covenant Partnership- Sustainability and Catholic Higher Education: A Toolkit for Mission Integration* (two pages)

4) APPENDIX:

A - [Background Information on the Carteret Islands](#)

B - [About the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change](#)

C - [Catholic Quotations about Climate Change](#)

We highly recommend you spend some time reviewing the additional information in the appendix. This will enable you to become well versed in the situation of the Carteret Islanders (history, geography, politics, economics, etc.) and Catholic teaching on climate change.

Much of this content is not covered in the script, but familiarizing yourself with it will enable you to answer potential questions that may arise during the session.

We particularly recommend that you take the time to review the Frequently Asked Questions, to which there is a link in APPENDIX B. There is a link to this in the Appendix (below). While it is lengthy, it is also thorough and will help you prepare if you do have an audience member who voices his/her discontent with either the science of climate change or the Church’s involvement in the issue.

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 responding to the teaching of Pope Benedict XVI and other bishops, including the U.S. Catholic bishops on the issue. Say to that person that you will be happy to try and address her/his concerns at the conclusion of the program.

HOW MUCH TIME DOES THIS PROGRAM NEED?

The film itself takes 40 minutes. With the opening introduction and the discussion and activities following the film, you should **plan on a total of 90 minutes.**

THE DETAILS

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

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

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 impact on both God's Creation and the people most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

3

WHY NOW?

Blessed John Paul II named St. Francis of Assisi the Patron Saint of those who promote ecology. In the fall 2012, the Coalition urged Catholics like you to focus this screening event around the Feast of St. Francis. We want to help you make Earth Day a special celebration, too, and to do so in a way that is reflective of Catholic values and action. But this project can be done at any time of year.

In addition, one year ago the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change and many of the other sponsors of this nation-wide film event produced a resource titled *Sustainability and Catholic Higher Education: A Toolkit for Mission Integration* (<http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Sustainability-and-Catholic-Higher-Education-A-Toolkit-for-Mission-Integration.pdf>) to assist Catholic colleges and universities live out their Catholic identity by implementing the St. Francis Pledge. This year's effort can help reinforce or launch this Toolkit once again.

The Coalition and its partners also believe that young people "get" the environment and are predisposed to wanting to make a difference. Linking their energy in this area with their faith is a key goal of this project.

WHO SHOULD BE PART OF THE NATIONWIDE SCREENING?

Anyone! But make a special effort to invite students, faculty, and administrators. Outreach to the wider community as well would be ideal.

WHERE SHOULD THE EVENT BE HELD?

Try to first determine the potential turnout for the event and that will dictate the size of the room or hall you might need. Work with your schools' administration to secure a venue. You will need a computer with a DVD player, a projector, and a way to amplify the audio. Additionally, the computer either should have a fast Internet connection or have a downloaded copy of the second video (more below).

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 on your campus to ensure widespread knowledge of the event (e.g., school website and social media, school newspapers, bulletin boards, texting and e-mail systems, etc).

RESOURCES FOR PUBLICITY:

All these resources can be downloaded from the Sun Come Up Resource page:

<http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/sun-come-up-screening/>

- Sample Press Release
- Bulletin Insert
- Bulletin Insert (2-pages)
- Flyer as a PPT page OR Flyer in Editable Word format

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- A comfortable classroom or lounge with enough chairs for your anticipated audience
- A video screen
- A laptop computer hooked up to
 - a. A projector
 - b. PowerPoint or similar software to show the 3-5 minute “Carteret Island Update.” This should be downloaded here <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/sun-come-up-screening/carteret-island-update/> prior to the event.
- 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 for the 2 Sign Up sheets.
- 2 Sign-in Sheets & 2 Fact Sheets (in the Appendix) enough for your size group:

HANDOUT 1 - *St. Francis Pledge Sign Up Sheet*

HANDOUT 2 - *Keep Me Involved in On Campus!* for people interested in continuing to discuss the film and ways to implement *Catholic mission-based sustainability* projects in your diocese or parish.

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, and we thank you in advance for your generous commitment. **REMINDER:** Please ask people to write their email addresses legibly.

HANDOUT 3 - *Resources for Further Study and Action* (two pages, see Appendix)

HANDOUT 4 - *Catholic Climate Covenant Partnership of Sustainability and Catholic Higher Education: A Toolkit for Mission Integration* (two pages, see below)

- St. Francis Prayer Cards: these will be mailed with your DVD—enough for the number of people you anticipate and with the Coalition when you registered for the event.
- Download and print a copy of *Sustainability and Catholic Higher Education: A Toolkit for Mission Integration* <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Sustainability-and-Catholic-Higher-Education-A-Toolkit-for-Mission-Integration.pdf> (to be shared when you offer tools and ideas after Group Discussion)
- Download (or prepare to play online at your event) “Carteret Island Update” (PPT) here: <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/sun-come-up-screening/carteret-island-update/>
- Prepare board or placards for “Our Response” reading of the 8 Catholic Social Principles (see below)
- Optional: Soft drinks, 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.

One note regarding terminology: “Climate refugees” is the term widely used by the world community to describe those displaced by the consequences of climate change. Despite its prolific use, some in the Pacific feel that this term carries with it negative connotations associated with asylum seekers and political refugees. Additionally, some who are displaced by the consequences of climate change feel that the term climate refugee fails to recognize that their situation entails a particular set of human rights issues and concerns that are distinct from those escaping other types of persecution. In recognition of these concerns, the Pacific Conference of Churches adapted the term forced climate migrants in its 2009 Moana Declaration on the issue: <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-programmes/justice-diakonia-and-responsibility-for-creation/climate-change-water/pacific-church-leaders-statement.html>. Although we recognize these concerns, this packet uses the term “climate refugees” because it is likely most familiar to audience members.

INTRODUCTION:

Tonight we are going through a process that will help us all understand that climate change is happening and impacting people around the world today. 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.

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AFTER THE PRAYER:

*For those living on small island nations in the Pacific, climate impacts cannot be more obvious. One such set of islands is the Carteret Islands just north of the semi-autonomous larger island of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. The film, *Sun Come Up*, documents the journey of some of the islanders looking for a new home.*

A little background will be helpful before we begin. The six Carteret Islands are home to about 2,500 people and most live on the Island of Han, where they have lived for more than one thousand years. Climate change has many impacts including sea level rise, stronger storms, rising ocean temperatures and rising acidification of ocean water. Each of these impacts is being felt by the Carteret Islanders. Warmer and more acidic water is destroying coral surrounding the islands, which used to act as a buffer to high waves and tides. Now there is far less protection from larger storms. As a result, salt-water inundates low-lying cropland; in fact, the highest point on the islands is just a few feet above high tide. Homes and other buildings are also threatened.

In his 2010 World Day of Peace Message, Pope Benedict XVI pointedly asked:

“Can we remain indifferent before the problems associated with such realities as climate change . . . Can we disregard the growing phenomenon of “environmental refugees”, people who are forced by the degradation of their natural habitat to forsake it – and often their possessions as well – in order to face the dangers and uncertainties of forced displacement?” (No. 4).

The collective response to climate refugees in the Carteret Islands and elsewhere demonstrates that people of faith and good will have chosen not to disregard and remain indifferent to the plight of those impacted by climate change. The film demonstrates that the resettlement effort in the Carteret Islands is being led by the Islanders themselves, mainly through an NGO called Tulele Peisa (meaning “Sailing the Waves on our Own”) formed in 2007 by the Council of Elders of the Carterets Islands. At the same time, various United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations such as the Catholic aid agency Caritas New Zealand, as well as the governments and dioceses in Papua New Guinea, Bougainville and Australia are working to understand and address the complexities of relocation efforts like the one documented in this film.

*After you view the film, we will have a brief discussion to illicit your initial reactions and then we will help clarify the current situation since the filming of *Sun Come Up*.*

What we also hope to accomplish tonight (besides sharing this story about real, present day climate impacts) is to 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—both individually and as a group (name your group)—can make a difference.

Now let's watch *Sun Come Up*

PLAY VIDEO (40 MINS.) AFTER THE FILM, SAY:

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

DISCUSSION ABOUT THE FILM (10 MINS.)

In order to get a conversation started about the film, you might want to begin with a few provocative questions. It is recommended that you ask people to pair-off and share with each other their thoughts to the following questions for five minutes and then share in the larger group for an additional five minutes:

- *What are your immediate reactions? How did it make you feel?*
- *Does the plight of the Carteret Islanders surprise you? Had you heard about Pacific Island nations in trouble before?*
- *Who do you think is responsible for their plight?*
- *Did you notice anything different about the group that finally welcomed the refugees to resettle on their land?*

6

BRING THE DISCUSSION TO A CLOSE

Now I'd like to show a 3-minute PowerPoint presentation so that we can understand what is going on with these families since 2008 when they were depicted in *Sun Come Up*. The pictures and narration are courtesy of Ursula Rakova whom you saw in the film and is a key advocate for her fellow Carteret Islanders.

SHOW THE 3-MINUTE "CARTERET ISLAND UPDATE" POWERPOINT

(At this point you should have ½ hour remaining for the program)

OUR RESPONSE: UNDERSTANDING CHURCH TEACHING AND TAKING ACTION (30 MINS.)

AFTER SHOWING THE POWERPOINT, YOU CAN THEN SAY:

In this last section of our program we'll touch on church teaching on climate change and then look at some concrete actions we can take to respond.

It's important to recognize that any refugee situation is multi-faceted. Some involve war, tribal conflict or political oppression. Others involve natural or man-made disasters. But for the Carterets, it is undeniable that climate change is a significant "push" factor driving people away to look for a new home.

The question then becomes, "How do I—how do we—respond?" In a war situation, we can work to try to end the war. Where crops have failed we can donate to organizations like Catholic Relief Services so they can deliver food aid. How do we respond to climate refugees?

The US bishops have helped to provide a roadmap for our response. First, they recognized that climate change does exist and that the virtue of prudence ought to be considered in this situation. They said:

*"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." (cf. USCCB *Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good*)*

Pope Benedict XVI and the US bishops understand the challenge and urge us to respond. The Catholic approach to climate change is framed by at least eight core elements of Church teaching: (It would be helpful to have these 8 principles visually displayed on one board or on placards with the whole definition printed on the back of them. If using one board invite individuals to take turns reading them aloud. If using placards, pass them to 8 individuals and invite them to read them aloud with the boldface words facing the group.)

As you hear these principles, reflect on how they relate to the story we've heard from the Carteret Islanders and inform our response to climate change.

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

As we see, the situation for the Carteret Islanders is far from resolved. There are hundreds of other families still in need of homes and the process of moving the islanders to the mainland is far from simple. There are cultural, political, educational, religious and social obstacles to overcome. Some of the islanders who have tried to relocate have moved back after finding the adjustment to their new home too difficult.

And, unfortunately, the plight of the Carteret Islanders is not unique. There are many other islanders in the region looking for help in dealing with their disappearing islands including the Maldives and Kiribati.

SO NOW WHAT? (15 MINS.)

Now that the group has seen both the feature film and the short update, it is time to move them to action. For many, they may be feeling a sense of hopelessness. Others will want to leap into action. The purpose of this final discussion is to help move students, faculty and the public in attendance to some action. The actions 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 hearing this challenging story and reflecting on our Church's teaching, you may be asking the question: What can we do?

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. The Pledge contains 5 parts. (Here you refer again to the St. Francis Prayer Cards distributed earlier.):

*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 can guide our actions forward 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 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 <http://www.facebook.com/catholicclimatecovenant> and following them on <https://twitter.com/catholicclimate>.

Two more great tools available from the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change that groups like ours might consider.

- The first is designed especially for Colleges- *The Sustainability and Catholic Higher Education: A Toolkit for Mission Integration*. This Toolkit, framed around the 5 actions of the St. Francis Pledge, can equip our college/university to strengthen its commitment to Catholic mission, to "cultivate and care for" (Genesis 2:15) God's good gift of Creation and to link these efforts to impacts on poor people at home and abroad, while developing a sustainable campus community. (Hold up and pass around HANDOUT 4 - **Catholic Climate Covenant Partnership- Sustainability and Catholic Higher Education: A Toolkit for Mission Integration**).
- 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 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.

If you want to learn more, I also recommend HANDOUT 3 - **Resources for Further Study and Action** (Hold up the handout and direct them where to pick it up at the end of the program)

TRY TO FIND VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE WILLING TO COMMIT TO FURTHER REFLECTION/ ACTION (3 MINS.)

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 an action plan? Please raise your hands. (Hold up the **"Keep Me Involved on Campus!"** 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

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 MIN.)

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.

As we move forward we encourage you to stay informed about how you can participate in our school's Catholic mission-based sustainability action plan. Please sign up here (give instructions as to where **"Keep Me Involved on Campus!"** sign up sheet is) if you haven't so that you can stay informed about any future action we might take to support the people of Carteret Islands and climate refugees everywhere.

RESOURCE 1



BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF PARISH to Participate in Important Climate Change Education Event

In celebration of the Feast of St. Francis—named patron saint of those who promote ecology by Blessed Pope John Paul II—the NAME OF PARISH/OR SCHOOL will join hundreds of other Catholic parishes, schools and colleges in a nationwide screening of the Academy Award-nominated documentary *Sun Come Up*. The film depicts some of the world’s first “climate refugees” inhabitants of the Carteret Islands just north of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. The local Catholic Church has assisted in the relocation efforts that are being led by the Carteret Islanders themselves through the local NGO Tulele Peisa.

NAME OF PARISH/SCHOOL will show the film on DATE at LOCATION. Afterwards, there will be a facilitated discussion about the film and action steps that you can take in response—ones that are based in authentic Catholic teaching. The event provides a concrete example of responding to the questions posed by Pope Benedict XVI in his 2010 World Day of Peace Message: “Can we remain indifferent before the problems associated with such realities as climate change . . . Can we disregard the growing phenomenon of ‘environmental refugees’...?”

The program is sponsored by the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, a national Catholic partnership organizations whose members include, among others, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. For more information, about this event, contact NAME OF PERSON and visit www.catholicclimatecovenant.org.

RESOURCE 2



BULLETIN INSERT | (PAGE 1 OF 2)

NAME OF PARISH is pleased to participate in an important national climate change education event.

In celebration of the Feast of St. Francis—named patron saint of those who promote ecology by Blessed Pope John Paul II—the NAME OF PARISH will join hundreds of other Catholic parishes, schools and colleges in a nationwide screening of the Academy Award-nominated documentary *Sun Come Up*. The film depicts some of the world’s first “climate refugees” inhabitants of the Carteret Islands just north of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. The local Catholic Church has assisted in the relocation efforts that are being led by the Carteret Islanders themselves through the local NGO Tulele Peisa.

NAME OF PARISH will show the film on DATE at LOCATION. Afterwards, there will be a facilitated discussion about the film and action steps that you can take in response—ones that are based in authentic Catholic teaching. The event provides a concrete example of responding to the questions posed by Pope Benedict XVI in his 2010 World Day of Peace Message: *“Can we remain indifferent before the problems associated with such realities as climate change . . . Can we disregard the growing phenomenon of ‘environmental refugees’...?”*

The program is sponsored by the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, a national Catholic partnership organization whose members include, among others, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. For more information, about this event, contact NAME OF PERSON and visit www.catholicclimatecovenant.org.

BULLETIN INSERT | (PAGE 2 OF 2)

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Pope Benedict XVI and the U.S. Bishops recognize the human causes of climate change and understand it as a moral issue grounded in ancient teachings—to “cultivate and care for” God’s good gift of Creation (Genesis 2:15)—and as part of what a Christian witness is today. They call on people of faith and good will to address this challenge.

This call has added urgency as predictions of a warming planet are now becoming reality, as people around the world are experiencing increased drought, wildfire, flooding, food and water stresses, disease and population displacement. These phenomena compromise key elements of Catholic social teaching, including our commitments to protect human life and dignity and to be especially mindful of poor and vulnerable who are disproportionately harmed by environmental degradation and climate change.

A SAMPLING OF CHURCH TEACHING ON CLIMATE CHANGE

- Blessed 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).
- Pope Benedict XVI: “Preservation of the environment, promotion of sustainable development and particular attention to climate change are matters of grave concern for the entire human family” (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).
- U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops: “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).

NEW EFFORTS WITHIN THE U.S. CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

In 2006, the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change was launched with the support of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change supports and complements USCCB’s Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development and the bishops’ Environmental Justice Program.

A central project of the Coalition is the Catholic Climate Covenant: *The St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor* by which Catholic individuals, families, parishes, dioceses, schools and other organizations commit 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.

Those interested in taking the Pledge are encouraged to register their commitment online at <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/>. You can also connect with the Coalition on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/catholicclimatecovenant> and on [Twitter @CatholicClimate](#).

RESOURCE 3



SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

NAME OF CONTACT
CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME OF ORGANIZATION Participates in National
Climate Change Education Event

On INSERT DATE, NAME OF ORGANIZATION will hold a screening of the Academy Award-nominated documentary *Sun Come Up*, which depicts some of the world's first "climate refugees." NAME OF ORGANIZATION will host one of several hundred screenings viewed by over fifteen thousand people in parish halls, school auditoriums and college campuses nationwide. The screening will be followed by a facilitated discussion about the film and viewers will explore ways to respond in light of authentic Church teaching on climate change and the environment.

This national screening is organized by the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change (www.catholicclimatecovenant.org) in celebration of the October 4 Feast of St. Francis, who was named "patron saint of those who promote ecology" by Blessed Pope John Paul II in 1979.

Sun Come Up depicts some of the world's first "climate refugees," inhabitants of the Carteret Islands just north of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. The local Catholic Church has assisted in the relocation efforts that are being led by the Carteret Islanders themselves through the local NGO Tulele Peisa. The event will provide an opportunity to reflect on the pointed questions posed by Pope Benedict XVI in his 2010 World Day of Peace Message:

"Can we remain indifferent before the problems associated with such realities as climate change . . . Can we disregard the growing phenomenon of 'environmental refugees', people who are forced by the degradation of their natural habitat to forsake it – and often their possessions as well – in order to face the dangers and uncertainties of forced displacement?" (No. 4).

In addition, viewers will gain a fuller understand the Church's authentic teaching on climate change and the environment. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops point out in *Global Climate Change and Our Catholic Response* that recent popes "have continually emphasized the moral dimensions of climate change and our responsibility to care for creation." Pope Benedict XVI and the U.S. Bishops recognize the human causes of climate change and understand it as a moral issue grounded in ancient teachings—to "cultivate and care for" God's good gift of Creation (Genesis 2:15)—and as part of what a Christian witness is today. They call on people of faith and good will to address this challenge.

This call has added urgency as predictions of a warming planet are now becoming reality, as people around the world are experiencing increased drought, wildfire, flooding, food and water stresses, disease and population displacement. These phenomena compromise key elements of Catholic social teaching, including our commitments to protect human life and dignity and to be especially mindful of the poor and vulnerable who are disproportionately harmed by environmental degradation and climate change.

INSERT NAME OF ORGANIZER believes the event will help local Catholics to better understand both Church teaching and the real consequences of global climate change. HE/SHE also hopes it will inspire people to live their faith more deeply by reflecting on the consequences of lifestyles choices on human beings and all of creation: "INSERT A QUOTATION."

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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 Faithful 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
- *Friending 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

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 Key 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:

- Archdiocese of Los Angeles
- Archdiocese of Cincinnati
- Archdiocese of Hartford
- Archdiocese of Ottawa (Canada)
- Diocese of Green Bay
- Diocese of Stockton
- Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux

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>

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 <http://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

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE CARTERET ISLANDS

GEOGRAPHY

The Carteret Islands (also known as Carteret Atoll, Tulun or Kilinailau Islands/Atoll) are located 86 km (53 mi) north-east of Bougainville in the South Pacific. The Islands are an atoll (an archipelago of coral islands) made up of six islands: Lesala, Lolosa, Huene, Han, Piul, and Lagain. The entire atoll measures 24 km (15 mi) in diameter and encompasses a total land area of 0.6 square kilometers. The highest point in the Carteret Islands measures 1.5 m (5 ft) above sea level. This low elevation above sea level makes the Islands and its people particularly susceptible to the adverse impacts of climate change. For example, rising sea levels in the 1980s divided the Huene Island into separate parts. Additionally, episodic storm surges and high tides have demolished homes, decimated vegetation and arable land, and contaminated fresh water sources with salt water. Moreover, the coral bleaching that result from increased sea water temperatures poses a tremendous long-term threat to this chain of coral islands.



Image adapted from www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/carteret-islands/6771651/The-sea-is-killing-our-island-paradise.html

It should be noted that the Carteret Islands are by no means the only place where “climate refugees” are considering how best to address the consequences of climate change. For example, the former President of the Maldives—an island nation in the Indian Ocean that has the lowest high-point elevation of any nation on Earth—has discussed the possibility of mass Maldivian emigration to Australia in order to escape the rising sea levels scientists predict could engulf the country by the end of the century (<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/climate-change-castaways-consider-move-to-australia-20120106-1pobf.html>). Similarly, the President of Kiribati—an island nation in the Pacific roughly 1,000 miles south of Hawaii with a peak elevation only 2-3 meters above the high-tide mark—has met with New Zealand officials about establishing a climate change-induced migration program. The Kiribati government has also launched an entire website devoted to the impacts of climate change on the nation with a short video titled A Call to the World (<http://climate.gov.ki/>).

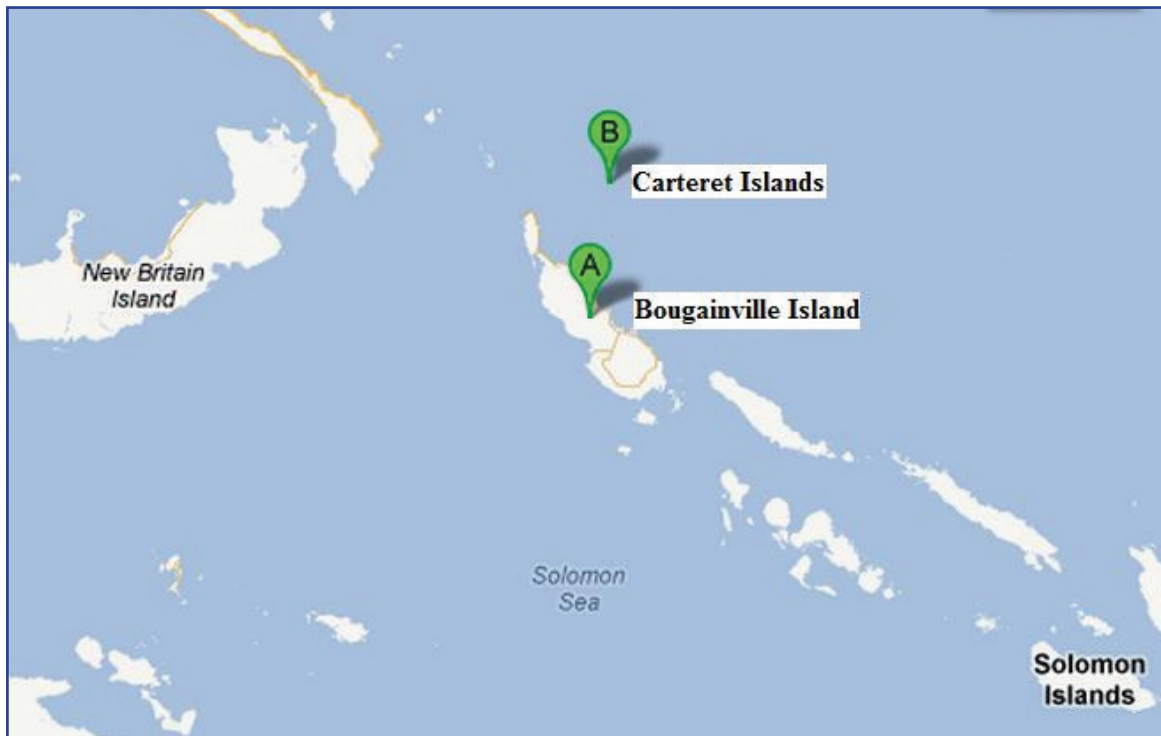


Image adapted from www.maps.google.com



Image adapted from www.maps.google.com

HISTORY

The Carteret Islands are named after the British navigator Philip Carteret, the first European to discover the Islands (1767). A brief expedition was led by American captain Benjamin Morrell to the Carteret Islands in 1830, and the Dutch, British and Germans colonized various parts of New Guinea in the late 19th century. In the early and mid-20th century, Australia assumed control of the British and German colonies on the eastern side of the island of New Guinea. This area became known as Papua New Guinea (PNG), which gained its independence from Australia in 1975. Since that time, the Carteret Islands have been a part of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.

DEMOGRAPHICS AND ECONOMICS

The population of the Carteret Islands is approximately 2,500. The major economic activity of the Islands is staple farming of mainly of taro and coconut. The Carteret Islanders also engage in subsistence fishing.

POLITICS

The Carteret Islands are part of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. Between 1989 and 1998, the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) sought independence from Papua New Guinea. A peace agreement was first brokered by New Zealand in 1997, and in 2001 a comprehensive Bougainville Peace Agreement was signed. According to the Australian government, "The Agreement included a weapons disposal plan and provided for elections for the establishment of an autonomous government on Bougainville. It also provided for a referendum, 10 to 15 years after the election of an Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), on the question of Bougainvillean independence" (http://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/png/bougainville_peace_process.html).

RELOCATION EFFORT (from <http://www.tulelepeisa.org/about/>)

In late 2006 the Council of Elders (CoE) of the Carterets Islands held a series of meetings to discuss the worsening effects of sea surges on their islands. The CoE were concerned that progress in establishing a relocation program for the Carterets people was going very slowly, while the erosion of their islands and the destruction of food gardens as a result of sea water surges was increasing at a very fast pace.

In December 2006, following a series of community meetings, the CoE decided to form the local NGO Tulele Peisa Inc. It was decided that the Carterets people needed their own indigenous organisation to plan and implement a voluntary relocation program for the next 5-10 years. Tulele Peisa therefore was set up to organise a well planned, staged program of moving Carterets people from their home atolls to the Bougainville mainland, where they could be safe and secure with access to economic opportunities as well as health and education services.

TP's aim is to facilitate an ecologically and culturally sustainable relocation and resettlement of the Tulun/ Carterets Atoll community who are facing threats from climate change. The organisation focuses on three key program areas; Research and Advocacy; Building Linkages; and Training and Capacity Building.

TULELE PEISA WILL ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS THROUGH:

- Research, capacity building and networking with the community, Council of Elders (CoE), churches, Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) and other stakeholders who share its vision
- Active promotion and emphasis on community self-reliance to empower community to organise and mobilise to strive for a secure and sustainable future.

CATHOLIC AID AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

The relocation effort documented in the film is being led by the Islanders themselves, mainly through Tulele Peisa. This work is supported by the Catholic Diocese of Bougainville, as well as the Mission Office of the Catholic Archdioceses in Sydney and Melbourne. To read more, visit http://www.sydneycatholic.org/news/latest_news/2009/2009116_304.shtml.

Caritas New Zealand and Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS) have been “documenting the movement of people from Papua New Guinea atolls to the mainland as a consequence of environmental degradation, climate change and food insecurity. The research will enable JRS to monitor 1,400 people in the Carteret Islands, Bougainville who are either moving to the mainland or staying behind. Impacts on individuals and families will be documented, to guide future JRS policy, planning and advocacy with regard to environmental migrants in Papua New Guinea” (http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Caritas%20AR%2010_final_web.pdf).

Caritas Australia has similarly been focusing on the impacts of climate change on poor island nations. The Just Climate (<http://www.caritas.org.au/act/a-just-climate>) program addresses the impacts on small island nations such as Kiribati, and collaborates with Caritas Bangladesh to consider the consequences of climate change on the people of that nation.

In November 2011, Dr Maryanne Loughry, RSM, Associate Director of Jesuit Refugee Service Australia, gave an interview updating the situation of climate change impacts on the Carteret Islands, as well as Kiribati and Bangladesh: <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/lawreport/climate-change-the-pacific/3684242#transcript>.

APPENDIX B



ABOUT THE CATHOLIC COALITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

In 2006, the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change was launched with the support of both the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Religious Partnership for the Environment. The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change supports and complements USCCB's Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development (formerly, the Department of Social Development and World Peace) and the bishops' Environmental Justice Program. The Coalition is a membership organization consisting of twelve national Catholic organizations that 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

LEARN MORE AT: <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/about-us/>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

You are encouraged to spend time reading the Coalition's Frequently Asked Questions page on the website. Familiarizing yourself with these questions and answers may help you with "tough" questions from audience members who wish to challenge either the science of climate change or the Church's involvement. Please visit: <http://catholicclimatecovenant.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/FAQ-2010.pdf>

CATHOLIC QUOTATIONS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

The Catholic Church has explicitly and repeatedly addressed climate change as a moral issue and called on all people of faith and good will to prudently respond. 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 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 centred 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 combatting 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).

POPE JOHN PAUL II (continued)

- *“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).*