Jesuit Schools and the Jesuit Pope: How Jesuit Colleges Can Respond to Pope Francis’ Ecological Message

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

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Outline

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1. Catholic Climate Covenant

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2. Pope Francis’s Ecological Message / Jesuit Higher Education

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• United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
• Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
• Catholic Charities USA
• Catholic Health Association of the United States
• Catholic Relief Services
• Catholic Rural Life
• Columban Center for Outreach and Advocacy

• Conference of Major Superiors of Men
• Franciscan Action Network
• National Catholic Educational Association
• Leadership Conference of Women Religious
• National Council of Catholic Women
• National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry
• Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

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**PRAY** and reflect on the duty to care for God’s Creation and protect the poor and vulnerable.

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Catholic Climate Covenant

**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.
**Catholic Climate Covenant**

**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.

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**Jesuit Schools and the Jesuit Pope:**
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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.
Catholic Climate Covenant

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.

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Pope Francis’ Ecological Message

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Pope Francis’ Ecological Message

1. Goodness of all creation
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2. Humanity's unique place in creation
Pope Francis’ Ecological Message

1. Goodness of all creation
2. Humanity's unique place in creation
3. Creation care and human flourishing

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1. Goodness of all creation
2. Humanity's unique place in creation
3. Creation care and human flourishing
4. Humanity’s stewardship responsibility

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1. Goodness of all creation
2. Humanity's unique place in creation
3. Creation care and human flourishing
4. Humanity’s stewardship responsibility
5. Anthropogenic climate change

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Pope Francis’ Ecological Message

“The first chapter of Genesis, at the very beginning of the Bible, shows us that God delights of His creation, by repeatedly emphasizing the beauty and goodness of all things. At the end of each day, it is written: ‘God saw that it was good.’”

May 21, 2014

Jesuit Schools and the Jesuit Pope: How Jesuit Colleges Can Respond to Pope Francis’ Ecological Message
All persons “are God’s handiwork, his creation.”

_Evangelii Gaudium, no. 247_
Pope Francis’ Ecological Message

All persons “are God’s handiwork, his creation.”

*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 247

Thanks to the “gift of knowledge,” humans “in the eyes of God … are the most beautiful thing, the greatest, the best of creation.”

May 21, 2014

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The “many wounds [that] are inflicted upon humanity” due to “our failures in love and respect towards…the whole of creation.”

March 22, 2013
Pope Francis’ Ecological Message

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“The Christian view of creation includes a positive judgment about the legitimacy of interventions on nature...
“The Christian view of creation includes a positive judgment about the legitimacy of interventions on nature…

“if these [interventions] are meant to be beneficial and are performed responsibly, that is to say, by acknowledging the “grammar” inscribed in nature and by wisely using resources for the benefit of all, with respect for the beauty, finality and usefulness of every living being and its place in the ecosystem.”

2014 World Day of Peace Message, no. 9
Pope Francis’ Ecological Message

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Pope Francis’ Ecological Message

“The majority” of climate change is caused by human activity.

January 15, 2015
Pope Francis’ Ecological Message

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January 15, 2015

The poor are “seriously affected by climate change.”

January 18, 2015
Pope Francis’ Ecological Message

“The majority” of climate change is caused by human activity.

January 15, 2015

The poor are “seriously affected by climate change.”

January 18, 2015

“There is a clear, definitive and ineluctable ethical impetrative to act” on climate change.

2014 Message to U.N. Climate Change Convention

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Jesuit Schools and the Jesuit Pope: How Jesuit Colleges Can Respond to Pope Francis’ Ecological Message
Charity: “Response to immediate needs and specific situations.”

Pope Benedict XVI, Deus Caritas Est, no. 31

Pope Francis’ Ecological Message

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Charity: “Response to immediate needs and specific situations.”

Pope Benedict XVI, Deus Caritas Est, no. 31

Justice: Attention to “the structural dimension of problems and their respective solutions.”

Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, no. 201
“Our personal sins: our failures in love and respect towards God, towards our neighbour and towards the whole of creation.”

2013 Palm Sunday Homily
“Confronting seriously the problem of global warming requires … strengthening, deepening and consolidating the political process on a global level.”

Message via Vatican Secretary of State to 2014 U.N. Climate Change Summit
Catholic, Jesuit Higher Education

Jesuit Schools and the Jesuit Pope: How Jesuit Colleges Can Respond to Pope Francis’ Ecological Message
“As a natural expression of the Catholic identity of the University, the university community should give a practical demonstration of its faith in its daily activity.”

Pope John Paul II

*Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, #39, emphasis in original
Catholic, Jesuit Higher Education

“As a natural expression of the Catholic identity of the University, the university community should give a practical demonstration of its faith in its daily activity.”

Pope John Paul II
*Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, #39, emphasis in original

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Specific Suggestions

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"PRAYER gives us strength for great ideals, for keeping up our faith, charity, purity, generosity."

Pope John Paul II
Address at Dergi Night
March 14, 1979

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"Modern society will find no solution to the ecological problem unless it takes a serious look at the R.S. value."
— Pope John Paul II
(Pope John Paul II, "The World Day of Peace Message, No. 15"

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"The environment is God’s gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole.”

— Pope Benedict XVI

In facing climate change, education should be a new necessity, as Pope Benedict XVI points out: "The environment is God’s gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole.”

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May 29, 2014

Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, DC 20460
Dear Administrator McCarthy,

I wrote an article in the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to address the Environmental Protection Agency’s efforts to develop standards to reduce carbon pollution from existing power plants and ultimately mitigate climate change. The USCCB recognized the importance of limiting exposure to reduce carbon pollution. These standards should protect the health and welfare of all people, especially children, the elderly, as well as poor and vulnerable communities, from harmful pollution emitted from power plants and from the impacts of climate change.

As believers and people of faith, we do not speak as experts on carbon pollution or on the technical solutions to address climate change. We are painters of a faith tradition that teaches, as Pope Francis recently stated, “Christian to be to Christ is to love our neighbor, to care for him, to be a wonderful gift that God has given us, and to treat him with kindness and understanding.”

The best evidence indicates that power plants are the largest single source of carbon emissions in the United States, and a major contributor to climate change. Power plants are often located near the most vulnerable neighborhoods and communities of color. Air pollution from these plants contributes respiratory problems, especially in the young and the elderly.

Efforts to address climate change must take into account creation and its relationship to “the least of these” (Matthew 25:40). Too frequently we observe the devastating impacts from climate-related events in the United States and around the globe, particularly on poor and vulnerable communities. Beyond the regulations, the United States should assume leadership for a globally negotiated climate change agreement.

We know that the recommendations of the U.S. Climate Change Liaison Group are already experiencing the tragic consequences of climate change. Increased temperatures, ocean acidification, sea level rise, wild weather patterns, and increased droughts, floods, storms, and fires. All of these are making the lives of the world’s poorest people more precarious.

Therefore, as we enter this season, “Earth Day 2014: Pray for Creation, Pray for the Common Good” “As we pray, take the common good to heart in our daily lives and in our decisions. This is a call to responsibility and to compassion, to respect and to love.”

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Chairman, Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development

Letter to Gina McCarthy
May 29, 2014

As the EPA takes steps to address climate change and reduce carbon pollution, we ask you to be guided by the following principles taken from our statement and the teaching of Pope Francis:

- Respect for Human Life and Integrity: The regulations and all efforts to reduce the impact of climate change should respect human life and dignity, especially the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable people whose condition is the result of societal failures. In particular, these measures must protect poor and vulnerable communities and ensure that the health impacts of climate change, including exposure to climate-displaced diseases, heat waves, and diminished air quality.
- Prudence on Behalf of the Common Good: We believe that action to address climate change requires how to protect the common good for present and future generations.
- Fraternity for the Poor and Vulnerable: The consequences of climate change will be borne by the world’s most vulnerable people, action will widen their suffering.
- Social and Economic Justice: Workers should be protected from negative effects on the workplace resulting from new standards and should receive assistance to maintain their organizations and families. Any additional costs that such standards may generate must be distributed fairly, without undue burden on the poor.
- Care for Creation: We can achieve this responsible stewardship of the earth and to use its gifts for our global leaders to promote human life, dignity, and the freedom in the future.
- Participation: Local communities should have a voice in shaping these standards based on their local impacts, especially, low-income communities whose voice is not heard. It is in accord with their dignity that they participate in this process.

We appreciate your commitment to address this urgent global challenge confronting the human family. Our U.S. climate leaders need to work together, the Administration, and members of Congress to ensure that regulatory standards to address climate change both can be effective and protect the least of these.”

[Signature]

Chairman, Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development

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CHA SUPPORTS NEW EFFORTS TO CURB CO2 EMISSIONS

STATEMENT BY SR. CAROL KEEGAN, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CATHOLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION, ON RELEASE OF EPA RULES ON CO2 EMISSIONS

June 3, 2014 - The Catholic Health Association is pleased that the Administration is addressing the serious problem of climate change by regulating carbon emissions in power plants and will work with our Catholic colleagues to review these new regulations to determine if they reflect some basic moral criteria.

Carbon dioxide emissions are a major contributor to greenhouse gas pollution, which is exacerbating climate change.

The health impacts of climate change in this country and globally are grave. As we describe in CHA's publication Climate Change and Health, climate change is contributing to food-related illness, vector-borne disease such as malaria, and problems with food and water quality and security.

Conversely, addressing climate change represents an important part of respecting creation and protecting it for future generations. As Pope Francis said just last month, "Creation is not a property, which we can use as we will, or a thing that we own. Creation is a gift, it is a wonderful gift that God has given us, so that we care for it and we care for it for the benefit of all, always with great respect and gratitude."

We join with others in the Catholic community in our commitment to human life and dignity, to social and economic justice for the poor and most vulnerable, and to care for creation. And we are hopeful that these new rules not only reduce CO2 emissions and improve human health, but also do not exacerbate the burdens of poor families and workers.

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Oral Testimony
Cecilia V. Calvo
On behalf of
Archbishop Thomas Wenski and Bishop Richard F. Pates, Chairman of the Domestic and International Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
EPA Public Hearing
Carbon Pollution Standards for Existing Power Plants
William Jefferson Clinton East Building, Room 1153, Washington, DC
July 30, 2014

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Dear Member of Congress,

As representatives of faith communities, we write to urge support for the U.S. Climate Change Policy (CCF) and the President's FY2016 budget request for the GCF. We write from different faith traditions, united across theological perspectives, to underscore the moral imperative of acting on climate change, and call on both the FY2016 CCF and the GCF to be strong, clear priorities of our national policy.

The GCF is crucial to our common future. It assists developing countries in building the resilience and capacity to adapt to a changing climate, and the adaptation fund, which is central to the GCF, is critical for meeting our goal of global adaptation needs. It is a moral imperative to do our part and support the GCF.

Credible and reliable scientific research is available to us on the need for urgent action to address climate change. We must not delay or undermine meaningful action and hope in the current climate. The GCF is a safe harbor for countries that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

This letter is just one example of the importance of the GCF. It is a voice of faith and a voice for the earth that is needed now more than ever. We urge you to support the GCF in your work as a member of Congress.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

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Conclusion

“The time to find global solutions is running out. We will only be able to find adequate solutions if we act together and in agreement. Hence, there is a clear, definitive and ineluctable ethical impetorative to act.”

Message to the 2014 U.N. Climate Change Conference

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Conclusion

“To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope; it is to let a shaft of light break through the heavy clouds; it is to bring the warmth of hope! For believers, for us Christians, like Abraham, like Saint Joseph, the hope that we bring is set against the horizon of God, which has opened up before us in Christ. It is a hope built on the rock which is God.”

Mass, 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

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