The great gift of God’s Creation is exposed to serious dangers and lifestyles which can degrade it. Environmental pollution is making particularly unsustainable the lives of the poor of the world ... we must pledge ourselves to take care of creation and to share its resources in solidarity.”

Pope Benedict XVI

The CATHOLIC COALITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE has begun a unique and unprecedented initiative that demonstrates a common Catholic commitment to care for God’s creation and to stand with the poor and vulnerable people in our nation and around the world facing the impacts of a changing climate.

The U.S. Bishops and Pope Benedict XVI, in response to intergovernmental warnings that human activity is resulting in climate change which is seriously impacting those least able to respond, have called us to examine our lifestyle and demonstrate in concrete ways our concern for God’s creation and the poor, so that the poor do not unduly suffer.

The CATHOLIC CLIMATE COVENANT ~ St. Francis Partnership to Care for Creation and the Poor is a new initiative developed by the Coalition designed to support Catholics in our care and concern by:

**Encouraging and assisting** Catholic institutions, organizations, parishes and individuals to take The St. Francis Pledge, thereby acting to protect our planet and those in poverty who are most impacted by climate change.

**Sharing the good news** about ways in which the Catholic community is carrying out the Catholic Climate Covenant to honor our obligations toward God’s gift of creation.

www.catholicclimatecovenant.org
The St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor

The St. Francis Pledge is a solemn commitment made by Catholic individuals, groups and institutions to honor God’s creation and serve poor people by doing the following:

**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 each of us—as individuals or within our families, workplaces or other organizations—is contributing to climate change (i.e. consumption and conservation);

**ACT** to change our choices and behaviors contributing to climate change and;

**ADVOCATE** for Catholic principles and priorities in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they impact the poor and vulnerable.

Many of you may already be doing some of these activities. We offer more ideas, resources, and tools.

The Covenant website features the many ways Catholic individuals, families, schools, parishes and other institutions are fulfilling the St. Francis Pledge.

The website offers news and resources about ways to advocate on behalf of poor people at home and abroad. Download these resources that will help you fulfill the Pledge and go beyond:

- Quotes for bulletin inserts, clipart, direct mailer sent to every parish, in English and Spanish, with poster and print ad
- Curricula for schools and adult religious education programs

You will be directed to information on Catholic social teaching on being stewards of God’s creation.

A short video can be viewed on the Covenant website as an introduction to and inspiration for, your engagement in the Catholic Climate Covenant.

What can you do?

- Visit [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org) to take the St. Francis Pledge and to receive updates from the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change about Catholic Climate Covenant activities.

- Discuss and promote this initiative with colleagues, friends, and parishioners. Invite others to Join the Covenant.

We look forward to working with you on this important Catholic initiative. The time is right for the Catholic community in the United States to come together to demonstrate stewardship, solidarity, and concern for the poor. We honor our Creator by caring for Creation. Won’t you join us?