

SCNY Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation November 2012 Update



Superstorm Sandy, Climate Change, and the Charism of Charity – where are the connections; how are we called to respond?

“These places will never be the same. They will be rebuilt but never the same. Nothing in my life has prepared me. They are part of my childhood memories ... they have been lost ...” (paraphrasing Governor Christie, October 30, 2012, as he spoke of the Jersey shore).

Staten Island, ©Nick Fevelo photo

“The only thing more overwhelming than Sandy’s devastating effects is the generosity of the people.” This comment of Cardinal Dolan as he visited Staten Island reminded me of people’s resourcefulness, creativity and power to bring forth a flourishing of life! SCNY and other group responses to the tremendous needs of those impacted by “Sandy” reflect the charism of charity alive today. Governor Christie’s words the day after “Sandy” reminded me of the decision we made at Assembly 2011 – to cross the threshold into an unknown future.

Climate change is more prominent in the media since “Sandy”. Government and other leaders comment that “Sandy” has moved the discussion from concept to a call to action. The Pastoral Letter of US Conference of Catholic Bishops on Climate Change connects climate change and poverty. The Catholic Climate Initiative offers resources, best practices and opportunities to collaborate with others – ways to address systemically the long term effects of “Sandy”. Perhaps, as SCNY we might want to participate in the Vincentian Systemic Change Project by exploring and addressing climate change through the lens of the charism of charity.

I invite each one of us to pray, reflect, learn about and take action on Climate Change, especially the connection to poverty. For resources or to be a Climate Change volunteer, contact Carol DeAngelo (718-549-9235 or caroldeangel@msn.com). There are many ways to participate.

Contemplative Spirit

- ❖ Pray and reflect on our call to care for God’s Creation and protect the poor and vulnerable, especially in the practice of humility, simplicity and charity.

Ongoing Conversion:

- ❖ Assess how individual, family, parish and congregation lifestyles contribute to climate change, energy use, consumption, waste, etc. Examples: turn off lights and computers; recycle, reuse, reduce.
- ❖ Read and discuss the US Bishops Pastoral on Climate Change; share resources found at www.catholicclimatecovenant.org.

Prophetic Action:

- ❖ Advocate for Catholic principles of solidarity and stewardship of God’s creation in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they impact those who are poor and vulnerable.
- ❖ Read and register your St. Francis Pledge at www.catholicclimatecovenant.org