

**SCNY Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation Update, Summer 2014**  
**Special issue on People's Climate March and what we can do!**



**There is a growing movement to address the critical issue of climate change. You are invited to participate in various ways!**

1. March with the Vincentian Family as we join other hubs representing Catholics, interfaith groups, women, immigrants, labor, food, etc.
2. Read and view resources on the internet and in newspapers and periodicals. Visit [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org), [www.greenfaith.org](http://www.greenfaith.org) and [www.peoplesclimate.org](http://www.peoplesclimate.org)
3. Pray for the September 23 meeting of world leaders as they gather at the United Nations to make preparations for the 2015 Climate Change Summit.
4. Keep alert to information on the growing movement to pray, advocate and take actions to urge world leaders to commit to a strong international climate change treaty.
5. Host a special prayer event and invite others! View an educational DVD!

**Climate Change Statement** of the Vincentian Family Social Justice Representatives:  
*We, the social justice representatives of the Vincentian Family of North America, invite us all to respond to the crisis of global climate change as one of the central ethical issues of our time. Faithfulness to our charism challenges us:*

- ❖ *To efficacious compassion toward the brokenness of Earth and its life systems;*
- ❖ *As Vincent de Paul challenged us, to see persons living in poverty and on the margins as Christ and to understand that they suffer first from the effects of global climate change;*
- ❖ *To learn to discern and celebrate the presence of God in Earth;*
- ❖ *To evaluate our lifestyle choices;*
- ❖ *To integrate this heightened awareness in our consciousness, congregational documents and actions.*

The social justice representatives of the Vincentian Family of North America include:

Congregation of the Mission, Eastern and Western Provinces	Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, OH
Ladies of Charity USA	Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, KS
Sisters of Charity Federation office	Sisters of Charity of Halifax, NS
Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy, SC	Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, KY
Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, PA	Society of St. Vincent de Paul US
Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, NY	MISEVI-USA
Society of St. Vincent de Paul Canada	Sisters of Charity Federation NGO
Daughters of Charity, Provinces of St. Louise and the West	
Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, NJ	

*September 2013*

*In early July at the University of Molise, Pope Francis said, "This is one of the greatest challenges of our time: to convert ourselves to a type of development that knows how to respect creation ... This is our sin, exploiting the Earth and not allowing her to give us what she has within her."*



## TAKE THE **ST. FRANCIS** PLEDGE

YOUR FIRST STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION TO CARE FOR CREATION AND THE POOR

Visit [www.catholicclimatecovenant.org](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org) to take the St. Francis Pledge, view Church documents, find out about DVDs, prayer services, etc. Below are some petitions the website offers. As we grapple with how to address this critical issue impacting all of us, most especially those living in poverty, let us pray:

1. That as Christians we may respond to the urgent call of Pope Benedict XVI to safeguard God's creation and be in solidarity with all human and non-human inhabitants of the earth.
2. For the Church, that we may be a witness to Christ's love by practicing a more ecologically sustainable lifestyles, and promoting justice and peace throughout the world.
3. For the millions of environmental refugees all over the world that have been displaced from their homes because of rising sea levels, droughts, expanding deserts, catastrophic flooding, and other environmental disasters.
4. For our children and grandchildren whose future is threatened by the progressive destruction of the Earth's ecosystems, that we may find the courage to alter our consumption patterns and pass on to future generations an Earth that is restored and healed.
5. For our elected leaders and those who help shape public policy on climate change, that they and we may heed the urgent call of Benedict XVI: "Our earth is speaking to us, and we must listen if we want to survive."

*Most of the crises facing people around the world that are dominating the headlines today are connected at some level with climate change. It is something the world can no longer ignore.*

*-- Margaret Comaskey, SCNY Associate*

*We are destroying Mother Earth. She is crying out to us to STOP our violence against her or she will no longer be able to provide us a home. How we treat Creation is how we treat our God who made her."*

*-- Mary Kay Finneran, SCNY*

*We can no longer continue on our path of excessive consumption; we have ravaged the earth of its resources and in the process done severe damage. The time is now for change and reform that will lead us to a lifestyle that is in balance with the earth"*

*-- Todd Gable, CMSV senior*

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