

DRAFT PJIC Office February 2020 Update on Climate Justice will be two pages

Join the Sisters of Charity of New York Creations Transformative Energy (CTE) Committee in responding to the call of Laudato Si' and ecological conversion.

Take a few moments to read, reflect and share on these words of Pope Francis in his 2020 World Day of Peace Message and ask, "How are you / we being called?"

"Faced with the consequences of our hostility towards others, our lack of respect for our common home or our abusive exploitation of natural resources – seen only as a source of immediate profit regardless of local communities, the common good and nature itself – we are in need of an ecological conversion. The recent Synod on the Pan-Amazon Region moves us to make a pressing renewed call for a peaceful relationship between communities and the land, between present and past, between experience and hope..."

The ecological conversion for which we are appealing will lead us to a new way of looking at life, as we consider the generosity of the Creator who has given us the earth and called us to share it in joy and moderation. This conversion must be understood in an integral way, as a transformation of how we relate to our sisters and brothers, to other living beings, to creation in all its rich variety and to the Creator who is the origin and source of all life. For Christians, it requires that "the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them." (9)

The CTE Committee and PJIC Office collaborate with faith-based groups such as:

1. **Global Catholic Climate Movement** 2020 theme is Celebrate and Accelerate. Two key 2020 moments are: the 5th Anniversary of Laudato Si' during Laudato Si' Week (May 16-24); and the Season of Creation (September 1 – October 4, Feast of St. Francis of Assisi). Consider forming a Laudato Si' Circle, joining Laudato Si' webinars and Animator Training Program and other initiatives. <https://catholicclimatemovement.global/>
2. **Metro New York Catholic Climate Movement**, a local chapter of the Global Catholic Climate Movement, is made up of individual Catholic leaders from various parishes and Catholic organizations in NYC metro area who want to network, be engaged, organize and sustain one another spiritually as we journey together working on climate change, integral ecology, ecological conversion and reducing carbon footprint. Email Nancy Lorence to join the

MNYCCM listserv at n.lorence2013@gmail.com to keep informed of what Catholic leaders and parishes are doing in the Metro New York area.

3. **Catholic Climate Covenant** –visit <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/> and <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/program/advocacy> Pray, Learn, Advocate as a person of faith on behalf of God’s Creation. Join its webinars.
4. **Investor Advocates for Social Justice** (formerly Tri-CRI) is beginning the next stage of its Climate & Environmental Justice Initiative. To join the Climate & Environmental Justice email listserv, email Jillianne at jlyon@iasj.org
5. **ROAR** (Religious Organizations Along the River) <https://www.roarhvb.com/>
6. **GreenFaith** – <https://greenfaith.org/>

Join us ... be informed ... advocate on issues you consider important

The CTE Committee advocates for 100% safe clean renewable energy, reducing our carbon footprint, clean accessible affordable water, no fracking or pipeline expansion, safety, transparency and accountability in storing nuclear waste at Indian Point and other environmental issues in the Hudson River bioregion, regionally, nationally and throughout our world.

Movement for a Green New Deal for New York –Food and Water Watch is inviting people to join this new coalition organizing around an ambitious platform for New York as bold as the scale of the climate & inequality crisis. It calls for: Public power, Taxing the wealthy, Stopping fossil fuel infrastructure, and 100% renewable energy and is demanding \$10 billion in the state budget to pay for a rapid and just transition, an end to fracked gas pipelines & power plants, and a shift from corporate energy systems to public power.

Stop the Money Pipeline <https://www.stophemoneypipeline.com/> is an important campaign launched in January to promote divestment from fossil fuels and investment in renewal energy. Website notes, “Banks, insurance companies, and asset managers are funding, insuring and investing in the climate crisis. Stopping this money pipeline is one of the most important ways we can address the climate emergency.” For more, read article in Common Dreams:

<https://www.commondreams.org/news/2020/01/09/climate-movement-takes-aim-wall-street-because-money-only-language-fossil-fuel>

Stop the Williams Pipeline in NY <https://www.stophewilliamspipeline.org/>

Sane Energy Project <https://www.saneenergy.org/>

Friends of the Earth website www.foe.org has opportunities to sign petitions on many issues. One is on BlackRock, the world’s largest investment firm, which

recently announced it will begin shifting hopefully trillions of dollars out of the coal sector. BlackRock still needs to address the destruction of the world's forests, the second largest contributor to climate crisis.

People's Climate Movement – <https://peoplesclimate.org/>

New York Renews – <https://www.nyrenews.org/>

Riverkeeper – www.riverkeeper.org

Food & Water Watch <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/state/new-york> in NY
Sierra Club

CTE Committee is exploring ways to promote Intergenerational Dialogue around Laudato Si' and its call to us to respond to the cries of the Earth and the poor. Two CTE groups that explore these themes in different ways are Life Transforming Spirituality Group and Cosmological Spirituality Group.

Thoughts to ponder...Dates to be aware of

1. Very interesting article on how DHS listed activists engaged in non-violent civil disobedience targeting oil industry alongside white supremacists in documents <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jan/13/us-listed-climate-activist-group-extremists>
2. The UN Biodiversity Summit (China) in October where GCCM in collaboration with Catholic partners will execute targeted advocacy efforts to support the Global Deal for Nature, a goal of protecting 30% of nature by 2030, at the Convention on Biodiversity.
3. COP26 (UK) from November 9 – 19th when the UN will convene its 26th annual conference of the parties to address climate change. This year is momentous, as it is the year for parties to announce how they will implement the Paris climate agreement (and whether they will fall short). GCCM will partner with Catholic institutions to encourage ambitious commitments that ensure a liveable future.

Information that may be helpful:

1. **Climate Emergency: Halt New Fossil Fuels** – Food & Water Action, People of Albany United for Safe Energy (PAUSE), Newburgh Clean Water Project, Green Education and Legal Fund, Resist Cricket Valley, Sane Energy Project, New Paltz Climate Action are coordinating a Climate Emergency: Halt New Fossil Fuels.

2. **PFAS – The House passed H.R. 535, the PFAS Action Act of 2019.** Led by SEEC member Rep. Debbie Dingell, H.R. 535 is comprehensive legislation to regulate PFAS chemicals, clean up contamination, and protect public health. For too long, Donald Trump’s Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) failed to address the threat of PFAS chemicals. But this bill requires the EPA to designate all perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous within one year of its enactment. Now, the bill heads to the Senate. For too long, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have gone unregulated in our water, land, and air. These dangerous chemicals have been linked to cancer, infertility, and impaired child development, among other serious conditions. PFAS can be found in a wide variety of everyday consumer products, including carpets, clothing, cleaning products, and food packaging, and they are especially prevalent near facilities that manufactured, disposed of, or used products containing PFAS. Now, we are asking the Senate to act urgently. Donald Trump’s Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has failed to address the threat of PFAS chemicals. It’s up to us to push for action.
3. **Call Cuomo Monday – No Con Edison rate hike for fracked gas** 877-235-6537... urge him to tell the Public Service Commission to reject Con Ed’s rate hike for fracked gas. Thursday, January 16th the Public Service Commission is voting on a disastrous proposal to raise our rates to pay for hundreds of millions of dollars in fracked gas investments. After months of closed-door, confidential settlement negotiations, Con Edison, New York City and the New York State Department of Public Service developed the proposal being voted on this Thursday.

Con Ed’s rate hike plan includes:

- \$80 million to expand a fracked gas pipeline in Queens
- \$140 million to expand a fracked gas pipeline in the Bronx/White Plains
- Possibly \$66 million to install a new fracked gas pipeline in Manhattan
- \$65 million to extend the life of an LNG facility in Astoria
- Over a billion ratepayer dollars over the next three years to replace leak prone pipes that should be retired and replaced with renewable energy.

All of it will be paid for with our hard-earned money, while Con Ed shareholders profit.

Carol De Angelo, January 16, 2020