

CATHOLIC CLIMATE COVENANT

The St. Francis Pledge to Protect Creation and the Poor

The St. Francis Pledge calls Catholic individuals, groups, and institutions to make a serious commitment to the following:

PRAY and reflect on the duty to care for God's creation and protect the poor and vulnerable. *"Preserving our environment is a faith journey that begins with prayer."* (Florida Catholic Conference)

Prayer for the Environmental Common Good

As we breathe the very air which sustains us,
We remember your love, God, which gives us life.

Fill us with your compassion for Creation.

Empty us of apathy, selfishness and fear, of all pessimism and hesitation.

Breathe into us solidarity with all who suffer now and the future generations who will suffer because of our environmental irresponsibility.

Move us into action to save our earth and to build your sustainable Kingdom. Amen.

(www.educationforjustice.org)

LEARN about and educate others on the causes and moral dimensions of climate change.

Resources at: <http://www.catholicsandclimatechange.org>

"Knowledge guided by wisdom and inspired by God's grace directs us to act responsibly and to teach others." (FCC)

ASSESS how each of us--as individuals and as organizations--is contributing to climate change (i.e. consumption and conservation).

"The Church encourages simple and energy- efficient living, resource conservation, education, and public advocacy as the means for growing closer to one another and to God's creation." (FCC)

ACT to change our choices and behaviors contributing to climate change.

"The Bishops of Florida have urged parishioners to make a concrete commitment to responsible participation in the use and care of God's creation." (FCC)

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

"In that spirit of praise and thanksgiving to God for the wonders of creation, we Catholic bishops call for a civil dialogue and prudent and constructive action to protect God's precious gift of the earth's atmosphere with a sense of genuine solidarity and justice for all God's children." (USCCB)

"Pray for a heartfelt love for creation; accept and respect your role as stewards of creation; become educated about ways in which you can reduce your personal and larger domain environmental impact; and then work conscientiously toward making your dwelling place, local community and Florida more environmentally healthy places in which to live."

My Covenant to Care for God's Creation

As a member of St. Paul Parish I accept and respect my role as a steward of creation. I will become educated about ways in which I can reduce my personal impact on the environment. I will work toward making my home, parish, and community more environmentally healthy places in which to live.

(Please check the specific ways you will begin to fulfill this covenant.)

Pray : For a reverence for all of God's creation and for the grace to carry out this covenant.
 I/we will pray the **Prayer for the Environmental Common Good** at meals

Reuse, Reuse, Recycle:

- Buy only what is necessary
- Buy products with less packaging
- Avoid use of paper and plastic bags for groceries - use canvas or cloth bags
- Use ceramic or travel mugs instead of paper or styrofoam
- Use the reverse side of paper for memos and notes and reuse envelopes
- Recycle: aluminum cans glass plastics newspapers junk mail

Conserve Energy:

- Home energy check: <http://www.progress-energy.com/shared/stw/main.html>
- Keep the thermostat a little lower in Winter and a little higher in Summer
- Turn off lights and other electrical items when not in use
- Change light bulbs to compact fluorescents
- Plug all electronics into power strips and turn off strips when not in use.

Conserve Water:

- Turn off water when not using sink or shower
- Use city rebate program to get new low-flow toilet
- Begin to plant native plants and cut back on water use in the yard.

Make Wiser Food Choices:

- Eat locally and/or organic and lower on the food chain (less meat, more vegetables)
- Purchase Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolate (<http://www.crsfairtrade.org/>)
- Start a home or community garden

Drive Less: Use alternative means of transportation (bike, bus, walk, carpool)
 When in lines, turn car off instead of idling

Enjoy Nature: Spend more time out of doors, walking, gardening, playing

Advocate: Read and respond to Green Team action alerts regarding legislation

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To honor God by protecting creation and the poor, I/We, commit to start taking the following steps during Easter Season:

I/We would like to be contacted regarding Green Team meetings and/or events:

Name: _____
Phone Number: _____ Email address: _____

