

*"Our common home is being pillaged, laid waste and harmed with impunity.*

***Cowardice in defending it is a grave sin ...***

*People and their movements are called to cry out, to mobilize and to demand — peacefully, but firmly — that appropriate and urgently needed measures be taken.*

***I ask you, in the name of God, to defend Mother Earth."***

*-Pope Francis, Speech at World Meeting of Popular Movements, 9.07.2015*

## PRAYERS AND ACTION FOR MOTHER EARTH



At the end of this month, leaders from around the world will gather in Paris for the 21st Session of the Conference Of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This **COP21** gathering is responsible for developing an international agreement, applicable to all countries, to keep the average global temperature increase to below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit).

That might not sound like a lot, but scientific research has found that to be a crucially important threshold. If the planet heats up more than that, the white ice and snow of the polar regions will melt into black water and brown ground which no longer reflect the sun's heat, but instead absorb it. This will accelerate global warming, even to a point of no return. It's been compared to speeding along a curving mountain road; there comes a point where we'll simply be going too fast to avoid careening over the precipice.

However there is hope! Millions of people are demanding that their leaders take courageous action in Paris to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are causing the planet to heat up. The Catholic Bishops Conferences from **every continent** have signed a letter stating:

*We join the Holy Father in pleading for a major break-through in Paris, for a comprehensive and transformational agreement supported by all based on principles of solidarity, justice and participation. This agreement must put the common good ahead of national interests. It is essential too that the negotiations result in an enforceable agreement that protects our common home and all its inhabitants.*

<http://catholicclimatemovement.global/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/APPEAL-TO-COP-21engl-final-1.pdf>

Several bishops from around the world have endorsed the following petition being circulated by the Global Catholic Climate Movement, which prudently calls for an even smaller increase in the average global temperature:

Climate change affects everyone, but especially the poor and most vulnerable people among us. Inspired by Pope Francis and the *Laudato Si'* encyclical, we call on you to drastically cut carbon emissions to keep the global temperature rise below the dangerous 1.5°C threshold, and to aid the world's poorest in coping with climate change impacts.

The goal is to get signatures from one million Catholics. Be one of them! Sign at <http://catholicclimatemovement.global/petition/>

For further inspiration, click [here](#) to listen to the voices of people from the Global South on why you should sign. Pass it on!



Pope Francis holds the Catholic Climate Petition in his personal office.  
Credit: Fotografia Felici.

## ***A Prayer for the Future of Our Common Home***

**Now** is the time to ask the Holy Spirit to guide and give real courage and vision to the people making decisions in Paris that will affect all of us. **Please pray hard.** Use this prayer from the Catholic bishops' appeal to the COP21 negotiating parties, and ask that it be said at Mass at your parish this month and during the United Nations Conference, November 30 through December 11.

***God of love, teach us to care for this world our common home. Inspire government leaders as they gather in Paris to listen to and heed the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor; to be united in heart and mind in responding courageously; to seek the common good and protect the beautiful earthly garden you have created for us, for all our brothers and sisters, for all generations to come. Amen.***

Sign up for Global Catholic Climate Movement's **Prayer Chain**. Choose a time slot and dedicate one hour of prayer to the success of the UN Conference. Remember, this is for the future of our planet, and especially for the poor and vulnerable who suffer the most from climate change. Go to: <http://catholicclimatemovement.global/pray4cop21/>



*Nothing says 'I love you'  
like cheap junk made in China  
by slave labor,  
sold by a company  
owned by billionaires  
benefitting from corporate welfare,  
paying poverty wages to employees  
kept from enjoying  
Thanksgiving with their families.*

*-Anti-consumerism placard*

## **~~BLACK FRIDAY~~ BUY NOTHING DAY: Friday November 27**

Join the movement to NOT SHOP on Thanksgiving or the day after. Don't feed into the joyless, angry frenzy of consumption that's destroying the environment. Don't support the corporations that force their low-wage workers to come into work on Thanksgiving. Instead, spend time with your family. Reflect on what you'll do for Advent. Volunteer for a worthy cause. When you do shop, support locally owned stores. Buy fair-trade and handcrafted items. Use your money to do good.

*"A constant flood of new consumer goods can baffle the heart and prevent us from cherishing each thing and each moment.... Obsession with a consumerist lifestyle, above all when few people are capable of maintaining it, can only lead to violence and mutual destruction." —Pope Francis, Laudato Si'*

### **Justice & Peace Ministry Staff of Catholic Charities:**

**Monroe** 585-546-7220 Marvin Mich ext. 7021; MMich@cfcrochester.org / Ruth Marchetti ext. 7099; RMarchetti@cfcrochester.org

**Chemung/Schuyler/Tioga** Kathy Dubel 607-734-9784 ext. 2135; KDubel@dor.org

**Cayuga/Ontario/Seneca/Tompkins/Yates** Laurie Konwinski 607-272-5062 ext. 12; LKonwinski@dor.org

**Livingston** Tabitha Brewster 585-658-4466 ext. 13; TBrewster@dor.org

**Steuben** Lynda Lowin 607-776-8085 ext. 217; LLowin@dor.org

**Wayne** Peter Dohr 315-331-4867; PDohr@dor.org

**Diocesan Life Issues Coordinator:** Suzanne Stack 585-328-3210 ext. 1304; SStack@dor.org