



Ideas for Sharing the Petition

In an effort to reach as broad an audience of Catholics as possible, here are some ideas for sharing the petition:

- Talk to the social action director in your diocese. Would he or she be willing to send an email to all parishes asking them to circulate and share the petition?
- Talk to your priest and your parish's peace and justice committee or creation care team. Can you get an announcement in the bulletin, make an announcement at the end of Mass, and arrange for signature gathering after Saturday and Sunday Masses?
- Share the online petition on your parish's website or social media. See our sample social media posts included in this toolkit.
- Do you know someone who attends or teaches at a Catholic college? Ask them to share the petition with the social justice office, with campus ministry, or with student government and encourage these groups to promote it.
- Do you have children in Catholic school? Ask the principal if you can share the petition at a school event or collect signatures as parents are dropping off or picking up their children.
- Do you know Catholic sisters or other vowed religious? Ask them to share the petition with their religious community.
- Talk to your Catholic family and friends about why, for you, climate action is a matter of faith, and share the petition with them through email.

Tips for Tabling

- Be sure to get permission to set up a table after Mass or during upcoming parish or school events.
- A good location to table is in an area of high foot traffic. You may wish to have a colorful sign or a banner to draw attention to your table.
- Have plenty of copies of the petition.
- Have plenty of pens and multiple clipboards so people can quickly sign while standing and don't need a table.
- If you can't table, have volunteers hold clipboards with petition forms ready to sign, standing outside the church exits after each Mass and ask parishioners exiting the church to sign the petitions.



Mail all completed signature pages to:

415 Michigan Avenue, N.E.
Suite 260
Washington, D.C. 20017

Sample Bulletin Announcement

In his encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis says that “Climate change is a global problem with grave implications...It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day. Its worst impact will probably be felt by developing countries in coming decades” (LS, 25). Pope Francis also reminds Catholics in *Laudato Si'* that caring for creation is an essential part of our faith (LS, 64), and he calls upon world leaders to work together to solve the climate crisis. With President-elect Trump about to take office, now is the time for Catholics to respond to the message of Pope Francis’s encyclical. After Mass, volunteers will be collecting signatures for a petition sponsored by Catholic Climate Covenant urging President-elect Trump to honor the Paris Agreement. This agreement is the world’s best chance at addressing the climate crisis before it is too late. We hope you will take just a few minutes to sign the petition asking Trump not to withdraw from the agreement and that you will consider sharing the petition with your Catholic friends, family, and neighbors.

Sample Tweets and Facebook Posts:

Twitter

Let @realDonaldTrump know you support the #CleanPowerPlan, #GreenClimateFund and #ParisAgreement. Sign the petition:

<http://bit.ly/2gNzACJ>

Catholics care about #climatechange! Sign @CatholicClimate’s petition to encourage @realDonaldTrump to #ActonClimate <http://bit.ly/2gNzACJ>

I signed @CatholicClimate’s petition encouraging @realDonaldTrump to #ActonClimate. Join me! <http://bit.ly/2gNzACJ>

73% of Catholics want our government to #ActonClimate. Let’s encourage @realDonaldTrump to address #climatechange <http://bit.ly/2gNzACJ>

Let @realDonaldTrump know that you support @Pontifex’s call in #LaudatoSi to #ActonClimate <http://bit.ly/2gNzACJ> @CatholicClimate



Facebook

Climate change is a moral issue that is already harming millions of people. Join us in encouraging president-elect Trump to honor the Paris Agreement, contribute to the Green Climate Fund, and implement the Clean Power Plan. <http://bit.ly/2gNzACJ>

An overwhelming majority of Catholics in the United States (73%) believe that the government needs to do more to address the issue of climate change. Encourage president-elect Donald Trump to follow Pope Francis' lead in #LaudatoSi and address #climatechange. <http://bit.ly/2gNzACJ>

In #LaudatoSi, Pope Francis called on all nations, including the United States, to do their part to address #climatechange. Please join us in encouraging president-elect Donald Trump to honor the Paris Agreement, contribute to the Green Climate Fund, and implement the Clean Power Plan. <http://bit.ly/2gNzACJ>

Shareable Images





Information for Signature Gatherers

What is the position of Pope Francis?

After COP21 ended in 2015, Pope Francis commended world leaders for reaching an agreement to address climate change, and urged the international community to promptly put it into action: “The conference on climate has just concluded in Paris with the adoption of an agreement, defined by many as historic.” Implementing the plan, he said, will require “a concerted and generous commitment on the part of each one.”

https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/angelus/2015/documents/papa-francesco_angelus_20151213.html

After COP22 ended in 2016, Pope Francis urged national leaders to implement global environmental agreements without delay. Addressing a group of scientists, the pope gave his strongest speech on the environment since the election: “The ‘distraction’ or delay in implementing global agreements on the environment shows that politics has become submissive to a technology and economy which seek profit above all else,” Francis said.

http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2016/11/28/pope_francis_address_to_pontifical_academy_of_sciences/1275273

From *Laudato Si'*:

“Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day. Its worst impact will probably be felt by developing countries in coming decades (25).”

“I would like from the outset to show how faith convictions can offer Christians, and some other believers as well, ample motivation to care for nature and for the most vulnerable of their brothers and sisters. If the simple fact of being human moves people to care for the environment of which they are a part, Christians in their turn “realize that their responsibility within



creation, and their duty towards nature and the Creator, are an essential part of their faith.” It is good for humanity and the world at large when we believers better recognize the ecological commitments which stem from our convictions (64).”

“Here, continuity is essential, because policies related to climate change and environmental protection cannot be altered with every change of government. Results take time and demand immediate outlays which may not produce tangible effects within any one government’s term. That is why, in the absence of pressure from the public and from civic institutions, political authorities will always be reluctant to intervene, all the more when urgent needs must be met. To take up these responsibilities and the costs they entail, politicians will inevitably clash with the mindset of short-term gain and results which dominates present-day economics and politics. But if they are courageous, they will attest to their God-given dignity and leave behind a testimony of selfless responsibility” (181).

What were the positions of Pope Francis’s papal predecessors?

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI repeatedly recognized climate change as a moral issue and offered support for international climate agreement negotiations.

“Can we remain indifferent before the problems associated with such realities as climate change ... ?” (2010 *World Day of Peace Message*, 4)

“To protect the environment, and to safeguard natural resources and the climate, there is a need to act in accordance with clearly-defined rules, also from the juridical and economic standpoint, while at the same time taking into due account the solidarity we owe to those living in the poorer areas of our world and to future generations” (2010 *World Day of Peace Message*, 7).

“How important it is then, that the international community and individual governments send the right signals to their citizens and succeed in countering harmful ways of treating the environment!...The protection of the environment, and the safeguarding of resources and of the climate, oblige all leaders to act jointly, respecting the law and promoting solidarity with the weakest regions of the world” (*General Audience*, August 26, 2009).

Pope John Paul II similarly acknowledged climate change as a moral issue and called humanity to respond:

“The danger of serious damage to land and sea, and to the climate, flora and fauna, calls for a profound change in modern civilization’s typical consumer life-style, particularly in the richer countries” (1999 *World Day of Peace Message*).



“The gradual depletion of the ozone layer and the related ‘greenhouse effect’ has now reached crisis proportions as a consequence of industrial growth, massive urban concentrations and vastly increased energy needs” (1990 *World Day of Peace Message*).

What is the position of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)?

The U.S. bishops promote prudent action predicated on justice to address the growing impact of global climate change. As the bishops note in *Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good*, “Action to mitigate global climate change must be built upon a foundation of social and economic justice.” National standards to reduce carbon pollution from power plants represent an important opportunity to protect the health and welfare of all people, especially children, the elderly and poor and vulnerable communities. In [testimony](#) offered on November 18, 2015 at an EPA public hearing, Archbishop Thomas Wenski and Bishop Oscar Cantú, Chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, and Chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace, respectively, expressed support for a national standard to reduce carbon pollution and offered moral principles to guide the EPA and states as they take steps to reduce carbon pollution.

The bishops also support the international Green Climate Fund that will help developing nations shift towards a low-emission and climate resilient development, and help them adapt to the impacts of climate change. As Pope Francis wrote: Poor developing nations “require the help of countries which have experienced great growth at the cost of the ongoing pollution of the planet” (172).

The EPA carbon standards and U.S. support for the Green Climate Fund demonstrate critical U.S. leadership and commitment that were essential to securing a successful outcome at the UN Climate Change negotiations in Paris and will be critical for ensuring its effective implementation. Learn more [here](#).

What is the Paris Agreement?

The Paris Agreement is a historic agreement, the first to unite virtually every nation around their responsibilities to take action on climate. The agreement centers on the idea that we must keep global temperature rise this century to well below 2°C (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), while also strengthening nations’ ability to prepare for and manage the impacts of climate change. 195



countries, representing more than 99% of global emissions, have made commitments to action. Learn more [here](#).

What is the Green Climate Fund?

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is designed to channel billions of dollars in investments from both public and private actors to help developing countries combat climate change. It is one of the primary institutions supporting implementation of the Paris Agreement. Implementation of the Paris Agreement hinges on countries successfully achieving the commitments outlined in their nationally determined contributions (NDCs). For poor countries, the GCF is a critical source of financing to help them adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. Learn more [here](#).

What is the Clean Power Plan?

Power plants account for nearly 40 percent of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions. That's more than every car, truck, and plane in the U.S. combined. On August 3, 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized standards that will reduce carbon emissions from power plants for the first time. Previously, power plants were allowed to dump unlimited amounts of carbon pollution into the atmosphere – no rules were in effect that limited their emissions of carbon dioxide, the primary driver of global warming. These standards, known as the Clean Power Plan, have been developed under the Clean Air Act, an act of Congress that requires the EPA to take steps to reduce air pollution that harms the public's health. These historic standards represent the most significant opportunity in years to help curb the growing consequences of climate change. Learn more [here](#).

For more information, please visit www.CatholicClimateCovenant.org or email info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org.