

CATHOLIC AND EVANGELICAL LEADERS AGREE:



WE HAVE A MORAL OBLIGATION TO ACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE.

As Catholic and evangelical leaders, we are deeply inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical addressing our shared responsibility to be prudent stewards of creation.

Pope Francis has issued a bold call to action, and the clock is ticking on a challenge that requires a collective effort in service of the global common good.

As citizens of the most powerful nation in human history, we have a unique responsibility to promote sustainable development, reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and build a thriving culture of life that protects human dignity. At their core, climate change and air pollution caused by the burning of fossil fuels are pro-life issues. The toxic pollution released from coal-fired plants and chemicals spewing into rivers and oceans present especially grave risks for life in the womb, young children and the elderly. The costs of delay are unacceptable. As Pope Francis wrote: "There is an urgent need to develop policies so that in the next few years, the emission of carbon dioxide and other highly polluting gases can be drastically reduced."

We urge elected officials to reflect on the pope's words and recognize that climate change, poverty and extreme inequality – interconnected issues that can't be understood in isolation – are defining challenges of our day. In a spirit of solidarity, we encourage presidential candidates, Members of Congress and governors who have raised doubts about the seriousness of climate change to consider the moral dimensions of this issue.

Pope Francis is not alone in calling for a response. Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, Catholic bishops and diverse faith-based organizations have long been at the forefront of advocating for prudent action. Evangelical leaders issued an evangelical call to action in 2006 stating: "Christians must care about climate change because we are called to love our neighbors, do unto others as we would have them do unto us, and protect and care for the least of these as though each was Jesus Christ himself."

We hope our nation's politicians will address this profound moral issue and show the world that we can lead by example.

Rev. Jim Wallis
President, Sojourners

Bishop William Skylstad (r)
Former President, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Archbishop Joseph Fiorenza (r)
Former President, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Ronald J. Sider
President Emeritus
Evangelicals for Social Action

Rev. William Kelley, SJ
Secretary for Social and International Ministries
Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States

Dan Misleh
Executive Director
Catholic Climate Covenant

Al Tizon
Co-President
Evangelicals for Social Action

Miguel H. Diaz, Ph.D.
Ambassador to the Holy See, Ret., The John Courtney Murray University Chair in Public Service
Loyola University Chicago

Dr. Walter Brugemann
Professor Emeritus
Columbia Theological Seminary

Sr. Simone Campbell
Executive Director
NETWORK. A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby

Michael Galligan-Stierle
President
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities

Rev. Clete Kiley
Director of Immigration Policy
Unite Here

Sharon Holland, IHM
President, Leadership Conference of Women Religious

Rev. Carlos Malave
Executive Director
Christian Churches Together

Timothy Collins (r)
Executive Director,
Catholic Campaign for Human Development, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Walter Grazer
Former Manager, Environmental Justice Program, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A.
President, Villanova University

Joseph E. Nyré
President, Iona College

Rev. Paul J. Fitzgerald, SJ
President
University of San Francisco

Patrick Carolan
Executive Director
Franciscan Action Network

Stan Mitchell
Senior Pastor
GracePointe Church

Dr. Brian D. McLaren
Convergence

Rev. Mitchell C. Hescox
President & CEO
Evangelical Environmental Network

Dr. Tony Campolo
Professor Emeritus
Campolo Center for Ministry

Richard Mouw
Institute of Faith in Public Life

Rev. Stephen A. Privett, SJ
Chancellor
University of San Francisco

Pat McDermott, RSM,
President, Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

John Inglis
Chair and Professor of Philosophy
University of Dayton

Rev. Bernard F. O'Connor, OSFS
President, DeSales University

Daniel Curran, Ph.D.
President, University of Dayton

Christine M. Wiseman
President
Saint Xavier University

John Gehring
Catholic Program Director
Faith in Public Life

Christopher G. Kerr
Executive Director
Ignatian Solidarity Network

Charles J. Dougherty, Ph.D.
President, Duquesne University of the Holy Spirit

Donna M. Carroll
President, Dominican University

John Smarrelli
President
Christian Brothers University

Kristyn Komarnicki
Director of Communications
Evangelicals for Social Action

Rev. Drew Christiansen, SJ
Distinguished Professor
Georgetown University

Anne Munley, IHM
President, Marywood University

Rev. David Hollenbach, SJ
University Chair in Human Rights and International Justice
Boston College

Ronald Pagnucco
Associate Professor, College of St. Benedict/St. John's University

Rev. Jeffrey von Arx, SJ
President, Fairfield University

Alex Mikulich
Research Fellow
Jesuit Social Research Institute,
Loyola University

Dr. Dermot Lane
Mater Dei Institute of Education

Candace Introcaso, CDP
President, La Roche College

Mary Meehan
President, Alverno College

Jonathan Merritt
Columnist, Religion News Service

J. Chris Bradberry
Interim President
Creighton University

Rev. John A. Coleman SJ
University of San Francisco

John Sniegocki
Associate Professor of Christian Ethics, Xavier University

Dr. Scot McKnight
Northern Seminary

Tobias Winright
Maeder Endowed Chair of Health Care Ethics, Saint Louis University

David Livingston
President, Lourdes University

Paul Alexander, Ph.D.
Professor
Palmer Theological Seminary

Donald B. Taylor, Ph.D.
President, Cabrini College

Eugene J. Cornacchia
President, Saint Peter's University

David Fitch
BR Lindner Chair of Evangelical Theology, Northern Seminary

Moya K Dittmeier
Executive Director, Conference for Mercy Higher Education

Kathleen Owens
President
Gwynedd Mercy University

Anne Curtis, RSM
Leadership Team, Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Deborah Troillett, RSM
Leadership Team, Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Eileen Campbell, RSM
Leadership Team, Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Mary Pat Garvin, RSM
Leadership Team, Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Christopher Hale
Executive Director, Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good

Rev. Robert Hemberger
Catholic Diocese of Wichita, Kansas

Rev. John E. Hurley, CSP
Consultant
New Evangelization Strategies

Fr. Lawrence E. Mick
Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Rev. John Becker
Holy Cross & St. Anne

Fr. Vincent Louwagie
Director: Ministry to Ministers
Sabbatical Program
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

Rev. Gregory J. Mayers, CSSR
Director East/West Meditation
The Redemptorists/Denver Province

Fr. John Monestero
St. Justin Martyr Catholic Church

Rev. Thomas Marti
Maryknoll Society

Fr. Warren J. Savage
Albert and Amelia Interfaith Center

Rev. Louis Tylka
St. Julie Billiart Parish

Fr. Michael A. Boccaccio
St. Philip Church

Rev. William G. Menzel (r)

Brandon Robertson
Founder & Director
The Revangelical Movement

Peter Enns
Professor of Biblical Studies
Eastern University

David O'Brien
Professor of Catholic Studies
Emeritus, College of the Holy Cross

Nancy Sylvester, IHM
President
Institute for Communal Contemplation and Dialogue

Anthony Annett
Climate Change and Sustainable Development Advisor
Earth Institute, Columbia University

Michael Pappa
Instructor in Religious Studies
St. Joseph High School

Donald Senior, CP
President Emeritus
Catholic Theological Union

Rev. Edwin Gearhart
St. Teresa of the Child Jesus Church

Fr. Duane Pribula
Priest/chaplain
Diocese of Crookston, MN

Rev. Dennis H. Hoftschneider, CM
President, DePaul University

Thomas J. Gamble
President, Mercyhurst University

(r - retired)

We Stand With Pope Francis