



## The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change

P.O. Box 60205  
Washington, DC 20039  
301-920-1442  
[www.catholicclimatecovenant.org](http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org)  
[info@catholicsandclimatechange.org](mailto:info@catholicsandclimatechange.org)



*I would like to ask all those who have positions of responsibility in economic, political and social life, and all men and women of goodwill: let us be “protectors” of creation, protectors of God’s plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment.*

**Pope Francis, March 19, 2013**

### Catholic Coalition on Climate Change

**United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:**

**Department of Justice Peace and Human Development**

**Migration and Refugee Services**

**Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities**

**Carmelite NGO**

**Catholic Charities USA**

**Catholic Health Association of the United States**

**Catholic Relief Services**

**Conference of Major Superiors of Men**

**Franciscan Action Network**

**Leadership Conference of Women Religious**

**National Catholic Rural Life Conference**

**The National Council of Catholic Women**

**National Catholic Education Association**

**National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry**

**Sisters of Mercy of the Americas**

Dear Family Teach In Participants:

How good it was to be with you very (very!) briefly on Sunday, November 17 in Arlington, VA. I am so glad you were able to hear Kyle Kramer’s message about the importance of cultivating the proper spiritual base and practices we need to carry on with the work of tending to Creation and to those most vulnerable to our environmental sins. He was terrific!

I am very pleased to know that Alex is doing well. Having personal experience of a family member with epilepsy, I was pretty sure that Alex was having a seizure when I saw him from the stage. It is indeed a troubling event, especially if you have not witnessed it before. But fortunately for most people with a seizure disorder, modern medicines can keep it largely under control. No doubt your prayers were exactly what was needed at the time. Thanks to you for your poise and your prayers!

Ignatian Solidarity Network staff has agreed to post this two-page piece on what was in my presentation. I hope it offers you both hope and some tools to help you integrate climate change activities into the work you are doing at the high school, college and parish levels. Here’s what you may want to know:

- [21 Catholic Colleges and Universities](#) have taken the St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor, vowing to implement the five elements of the Pledge (prayer, learning, assessing, acting and advocating) into the life of the institution. They have used our [Sustainability in Higher Education: A Toolkit For Mission Integration](#) resource developed in collaboration with the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities and others. They join 10,000 individuals, families and other institutions that have taken the Pledge!
- The [key guiding principles](#) for addressing climate change from the perspective of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops include:
  - **Prudence:** intelligence applied to our actions; the need to act even when all the evidence is not in.
  - **Poverty:** the real “inconvenient truth” is that those who have contributed the least to climate change will suffer (and are already suffering) its worst consequences, namely, the poor and most vulnerable at home and abroad.
  - **The Common Good:** nothing is more common than the atmosphere: the air we share and surrounds the globe making life possible. What we put into the atmosphere today circulates around the globe.
- Besides the “Sustainability Toolkit” mentioned above, the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change has other resources that we hope you find helpful in teaching others about an authentically Catholic approach to the issue of climate change and

environmental degradation. These include:

- [Friending Planet Earth: Helping Youth Understand Solidarity and Sustainability in Light of Climate Change](#). This is a six-session program designed especially for youth groups and high-school aged students.
  - At the beginning of each school year, the Coalition puts together a one and a half hour program for the [Feast of St. Francis](#). Two years ago, we used the film Sun Come Up to help Catholics in parishes and schools understand how climate change is impacting Pacific Islanders. This past year, we promoted Melting Ice, Mending Creation: A Catholic Approach to Climate Change, which provided an evening of education on both the Pontifical Academy of Science's study of the disappearance of mountain glaciers due to climate change and the striking visual evidence of that fact by James Balog and his Extreme Ice Survey project. Both of these programs are available throughout the year on our website.
- There are other excellent programs designed by many of our national Catholic partners that you may also find helpful. These include:
    - A [website](#) from the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry that is targeted to youth and is modeled off of the St. Francis Pledge (and, by the way, is currently undergoing a major renovation).
    - [Catholics Confront Global Poverty](#) from the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services.
    - Catholic Rural Life's [Global Climate Change Response Study Guide](#).
  - I also encourage you to follow the Coalition's work in several ways:
    - [Sign up](#) for our bi-weekly e-mail blasts which share all the good news on what the Church is doing on climate change and environmental justice at home and around the world.
    - Follow us on [Facebook](#).
    - Follow us (and me) on Twitter [catholicclimate](#) or [alianzaclima](#) and [dan\\_misleh](#).

Thanks again for the opportunity to be with you and for those who attended my workshop on Melting Ice, Mending Creation. It was an inspiration to me to be among so many dedicated young people working to bring the fullness of the Good News to a world in need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray rectangular background. The signature reads "Daniel J. Misleh" in a cursive, flowing script.

Daniel J. Misleh  
Executive Director