

Catholic Climate Declaration

CATHOLICS ARE STILL IN

The Catholic Climate Declaration is a public expression of support by the Catholic community in the United States for action to address climate change. The Declaration:

- Reflects the Church's long-standing moral basis for the care of God's creation, as integral to our care for the life and dignity of all people in our one human family.
- Calls for action on climate change, which threatens our common home and future, and impacts our poor and vulnerable neighbors the most.
- Is an act in prayerful solidarity with the We Are Still In campaign, the largest and most diverse coalition of organizations across American civil society, calling for climate action and U.S. participation in the Paris Agreement.
- Is organized by Catholic Climate Covenant and supported by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Will you, as a leader of your Catholic community, join our Church's call for action to address climate change, by signing your parish, school, or institution onto the Catholic Climate Declaration?

If so, please go to:

<http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/catholic-climate-declaration>

With the Catholic Climate Declaration, the U.S. Catholic community:

- Demonstrates our faithful commitment to climate action, consistent with Catholic social teaching that calls upon us to care for our poor and vulnerable neighbors, and to care for creation, so that all people may thrive.
- Articulates the most significant expression of support for climate action by the Catholic Church in the United States since Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'* in 2015.

The Catholic Climate Covenant will announce the number of declaration signatories on June 18, 2018, the third anniversary of *Laudato Si'*. The sign-on deadline is June 11, 2018.

For more information contact: info@CatholicClimateCovenant.org

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As Catholic communities, organizations, and institutions in the United States, we join with state, tribal, and local governments, as well as businesses, financial institutions, and other faith organizations, to declare that we are still in on actions that meet the climate goals outlined in the Paris Agreement.

The Catholic Church has long recognized—and 55 years ago Pope Paul VI eloquently described--the tragic consequences of unchecked human activity (*Laudato Si'*, 4). This reality includes the problem of excess greenhouse gas pollution and the reality of human-forced climate change. In 2001 the U.S. Bishops said that “global climate is by its very nature a part of the planetary commons,” and that prudent action must be taken to protect it (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, [Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good](#), 2001). On numerous occasions Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have called for an international climate change agreement.

Climate change is an urgent moral issue because it compromises the future of our common home, threatens human life and human dignity, and adds to the hardships already experienced by the poorest and most vulnerable people both at home and abroad. We teach that governments exist to protect and promote the common good, and that “the climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all.” (*Laudato Si'*, 23).

“[A]t its core, global climate change is not about economic theory or political platforms, nor about partisan advantage or interest group pressures. It is about the future of God’s creation and the one human family. It is about protecting both ‘the human environment’ and the natural environment. It is about our human stewardship of God’s creation and our responsibility to those who come after us” (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, [Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good](#), 2001).

In December 2015, the leaders of 195 nations adopted the Paris Agreement that established a framework for nations to reduce carbon emissions to limit the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels, and to avoid the most dangerous effects of climate change. The Holy See and the U.S. Bishops have repeatedly voiced their support for it.

On June 1, 2017, President Trump announced that the United States would withdraw from the Paris agreement, the only nation to do so. In response, the U.S. bishops declared, “The President’s decision not to honor the U.S. commitment to the Paris agreement is deeply troubling” ([USCCB Statement on the President’s Withdrawal from Paris Agreement](#), June 1, 2017).

As Catholic communities, organizations, and institutions in the United States, we join with other institutions from across American society to ensure that the United States remains a global leader in reducing emissions. We call for the Administration to join the global community and return to the Paris Agreement.