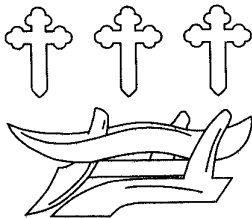


Archdiocese of Cincinnati



**Office of
The Archbishop**

100 East Eighth Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

513-421-3131

March 24, 2009

Mr. Dan Misleh, Director
The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change
5727 Lockwood Road
Cheverly, Maryland 20785

Dear Dan,

I am pleased to report to you that the Archdiocese of Cincinnati endorses *A Catholic Climate Covenant: the St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor*. We have heard much on environmental stewardship and climate change from our Holy Father, Benedict XVI, through his public addresses around the globe. In addition, the U.S. bishops are encouraging Catholics across the nation to practice the virtue of prudence and take steps to mitigate possible negative effects of climate change on the earth and, especially, on the poor and vulnerable, who lack the resources to protect themselves. And so, locally, I want to encourage Catholics at home and the institutions affiliated with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to consider ways that we can be even more faithful stewards of God's beautiful creation. The St. Francis Pledge will call us to:

PRAY and reflect on the duty to care for God's creation and protect the poor and vulnerable;

LEARN about and educate others on both the reality of climate change and its moral dimensions;

ASSESS our participation—as individuals and organizations—in contributing to climate change (i.e. consumption and conservation);

ACT to change our choices and behaviors contributing to climate change and;

ADVOCATE Catholic principles and priorities in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they impact the poor and vulnerable.

In order to help guide the Archdiocese towards fulfilling its commitment to this covenant, I have authorized the creation of a Climate Change Task Force as part of the Archdiocesan Catholic Social Action Commission. This body of Archdiocesan staff and volunteers from across the Archdiocese will strategize on how we can live out the five elements of the pledge. It will interface with various ministries of the Archdiocese, develop and collect educational and liturgical resources, promote energy audits, organize workshops, and provide opportunities for advocacy.

I am thankful for the leadership of the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, which has given us this opportunity to be more mindful of how we can promote authentic human development while protecting God's creation for generations to come.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Pilarczyk' with a cross symbol to the left.

Most Reverend Daniel E. Pilarczyk
Archbishop of Cincinnati