

November 16, 2017

Dear President Trump and Members of the United States Congress:

As leaders of Catholic organizations in the United States, we write with one voice to urge you to reassert U.S. leadership in the global effort to address climate change. On behalf of people who are poor and vulnerable and future generations, we especially ask that you act based upon the best available climate science; fund the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; honor U.S. commitments to the Green Climate Fund; and meaningfully participate in the deliberations of the UNFCCC.

The Catholic Church has long called for a prudent approach to creation. In 1971, Paul VI [wrote](#), “Man is suddenly becoming aware that by an ill-considered exploitation of nature he risks destroying it and becoming in his turn the victim of this degradation.” His successors, Saint John Paul II, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis have advanced the Church’s call for us to care for creation, a tenet of [Catholic social teaching](#).

Catholic leaders across the nation and world have explicitly and consistently affirmed climate change as a moral issue that threatens core Catholic commitments, including to: protect human life, promote human dignity, exercise a preferential option for the poor and vulnerable, advance the common good, live in solidarity with future generations, and care for God’s creation which is *our common home*.

The Catholic Church has for years supported actions to address climate change based upon the best available science. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) expressed in its 2001 statement [Global Climate Change: A Plea For Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good](#): “In facing climate change, what we already know requires a response; it cannot be easily dismissed. Significant levels of scientific consensus—even in a situation with less than full certainty, where the consequences of not acting are serious—justifies, indeed can obligate, our taking action intended to avert potential dangers.”

We are thus obligated by our faith to act – especially now considering the November 3rd [National Climate Assessment](#) from thirteen federal agencies that concludes:

“[B]ased on extensive evidence, that it is extremely likely that human activities, especially emissions of greenhouse gases, are the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century. For the warming over the last century, there is no convincing alternative explanation supported by the extent of the observational evidence.”

Guided by these principles and findings, we members of the Catholic Church in the United States ask that you:

1. Fund the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The UNFCCC and IPCC are indispensable institutions for the advancement of global diplomacy, action, science and knowledge on climate change. The United States has provided funding for these institutions since 1992, and we applaud the Senate Appropriations Committee's recent bipartisan amendment to include \$10 million for them in the Senate's FY2018 budget. We echo the USCCB in its [letter](#) urging Congress to support this amendment and call for the Administration and Congress to support future allocations to ensure US participation and leadership in the global efforts to address climate change.

2. Meaningfully participate in the deliberations of the UNFCCC

Climate change is a global problem that requires global solutions. As our nation enjoys vast resources and has been a primary contributor to climate change, justice requires that the U.S. display strong and consistent leadership within the UNFCCC. In this way, the U.S. can help secure science-based global commitments which rapidly reduce greenhouse gas pollution and avoid so-called "tipping points" towards unavoidable and catastrophic impacts.

3. Honor U.S. Commitments to the Green Climate Fund

One measure of a society's greatness is how it treats people who are poor and vulnerable. As our Catholic tradition instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first, we urge you to honor U.S. commitments to the Green Climate Fund. The Fund helps less developed nations most impacted by climate change to build resilience to present and future impacts. Their peoples are disproportionately harmed by climate change despite often contributing least to the problem.

We heed the [call of our Church](#), which implores, "As individuals, as institutions, as a people we need a change of heart to preserve and protect the planet for our children and for generations yet unborn." We hope that you will accept our appeal, so that we may continue to dialogue and work together to manifest this change of heart.

Prayerfully submitted,

Sister Sara Dwyer, ASC
JPIC Coordinator
Adorers of the Blood of Christ, US Region
St. Louis, MO

Mary Lou Retelle
President
Anna Maria College
Paxton, MA

Camille Grippon
Director
Ecology and Global Ministries
Bon Secours Health System, Inc.

Anthony R. Tersigni, EdD, FACHE
President and CEO
Ascension Health
St. Louis, MO

Thomas D. Stegman, S.J., Ph.D.
Dean
Boston College School of Theology and
Ministry
Boston, MA

Michael Galligan-Stierle, Ph.D.
President
Association of Catholic Colleges and
Universities
Washington, DC

Michael J. Sheeran, S.J.
President
Association of Jesuit Colleges and
Universities
Washington, D.C.

Rachelle L. Karstens, JD
Executive Vice President
Briar Cliff University
Sioux City, IA

Sister Joseph Spring, SCC
President
Assumption College for Sisters
Mendham, NJ

Donald B. Taylor, Ph.D.
President
Cabrini University
Radnor, PA

Very Rev. James Gannon, OFM
Provincial
Assumption BVM Province
Franklin, WI

Nancy H. Blattner, Ph.D., OPA
President
Caldwell University
Caldwell, NJ

Kevin G. Quinn
President
Aquinas College
Grand Rapids, MI

John J. Hurley
President
Canisius College
Buffalo, NY

Ronald A. Slepitza, Ph.D.
President
Avila University
Kansas City, MO

Sr. Jane Remson, O.Carm.
President
Carmelite NGO
New Orleans, LA

Linda M. Bevilacqua, OP, Ph.D.
President
Barry University
Miami Shores, FL

Sister Donna Markham OP, Ph.D.
President and CEO
Catholic Charities USA
Alexandria, VA

Sister Marilisa Helena da Silva, OSF
Congregational Minister
Bernardine Franciscan Sisters
Reading, PA

Most Reverend Richard Pates Bishop of Des
Moines
Episcopal Liaison to the Catholic Climate
Covenant

Dan Misleh
Executive Director
Catholic Climate Covenant
Washington, DC

Sr. Carol Keehan
President and CEO
Catholic Health Association of the United
States
Washington, DC

Kevin E. Lofton, FACHE
Chief Executive Officer Catholic Health
Initiatives Englewood, CO

Sean Callahan
President and CEO
Catholic Relief Services
Baltimore, MD

James Ennis
Executive Director
Catholic Rural Life
St. Paul, MN

Joseph J. Fahey, Ph.D.
Chair
Catholic Scholars for Worker Justice
Weymouth, MA

Sr. Mary Anne Owens, SSND
Provincial Leader
Central Pacific Province of the School
Sisters of
Notre Dame
St. Louis, MO

Yvette Dargy, SSA
Pauline Laurence, SSA
Joanne Dion, SSA
Sisters of Saint Anne
Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Louisiana

Lynn Babington
President
Chaminade University of Honolulu
Honolulu, HI

Carol Jean Vale, SSJ, Ph.D.
President
Chestnut Hill College
Philadelphia, PA

Joanne M. Burrows, SC, PhD
President
Clarke University
Dubuque, IA

Philip L. Boroughs, S.J.
President
College of the Holy Cross
Worcester, MA

Charles L. Flynn, Jr.
President
College of Mount Saint Vincent
Bronx, NY

Scott Wright
Director
Columban Center for Advocacy and
Outreach
Washington, DC

Dr. Moya K. Dittmeier
Executive Director
Conference for Mercy Higher Education
Silver Spring, MD

Eli S. McCarthy, Ph.D.
Director, Justice and Peace
Conference of Major Superiors of Men
Silver Spring, MD

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, S.J.
President
Creighton University
Omaha, NE

Sr. Julie Kubasak
Visitatrix
Daughters of Charity, Province of the West
Los Altos Hills, CA

Kelly Litt
Justice Promoter
Dominican Sisters of Peace
Columbus, OH

A. Gabriel Esteban, Ph.D.
President
DePaul University
Chicago, IL

Sr. Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP
Prioress General
Dominican Sisters of Springfield Illinois
Springfield, IL

Rachelle Reyes Wenger, MPA
Director, Public Policy, and Community
Advocacy
Dignity Health
Pasadena, CA

Msgr. Stuart W. Swetland
President
Donnelly College
Kansas City, KS

Rev. Thomas J. Ascheman SVD
President
Divine Word College
Epworth, IA

Sister Janet Eisner, SND
President
Emmanuel College
Boston, MA

Sister Mary Murray, OP
President
Dominican Congregation of Our Lady of the
Rosary
Sparkill, NY

Mark R. Nemecek, Ph.D. President, Professor
of Politics
Fairfield University
Fairfield, CT

Sister Mary Brigid Clingman, OP
Promoter of Justice
Dominican Sisters ~ Grand Rapids
Grand Rapids, MI

Sr. Maryann Mueller
JPIC coordinator
Felician Sisters of North America
Leadership Team
Beaver Falls, PA

Sister Patricia Siemen, OP
Prioress
Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Michigan
Adrian, MI

Anne M. Prisco, Ph.D.
President
Felician University
Lodi, NJ

Patrice Werner, OP
Prioress
Dominican Sisters of Caldwell
Caldwell, NJ

Patrick Carolan
Executive Director
Franciscan Action Network
Washington, DC

Lorelle Elcock, OP
Prioress
Dominican Sisters of Hope
Ossining, NY

Joe Monahan, T.O.R.
Director, JPIC
Franciscan Friars, T.O.R.
Loretto, PA

Sister Ann Marie Hudzina
General Minister
Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph
Hamburg, NY

Sister Diane Bardol, GNSH
Social Justice Coordinator
The Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart
Philadelphia, PA

Sister Maureen McGarrity, CSFN, Ph.D.
President
Holy Family University
Philadelphia, PA

Sister Marilyn Trowbridge, SFP
US Area Congregational Councilor
Franciscan Sisters of the Poor

Very Rev. Kevin Mullen, OFM
Provincial Minister
Holy Name Province
New York, NY

Joseph M. McShane, S.J., Ph.D.
President
Fordham University
Bronx, NY

Sr. Rose Therese Nolta, SSpS
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC
Northfield, IL

Dr. Keith Taylor, Ph.D.
President
Gannon University
Erie, PA

Christopher G. Kerr
Executive Director
Ignatian Solidarity Network
University Heights, OH

John J. DeGioia
President
Georgetown University
Washington, DC

Deanne H. D'Emilio, J.D.
President
Gwynedd Mercy University
Gwynedd Valley, PA

Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D.
President
Georgian Court University
Lakewood, NJ

Mary Jane Herb, IHM, Ph.D.
President Leadership Council
IHM Sisters
Monroe, MI

Very Rev. Robert Campagna, OFM
Provincial
Immaculate Conception Province
New York, NY

Fr. Neil Pezzulo
1st Vice President
Mr. Tom Navin
Director, Justice, Peace and Integrity of
Creation

Sister Judy Illig, IBVM
United States Province Leader Institute of
the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wheaton, IL

Glenmary Home Missioners
Fairfield, OH

Tomás Insua
Executive Director
Global Catholic Climate Movement
Boston, MA

Rev. Jean-Denis Saint Felix
Secretary, Office of Justice and Ecology
Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United
States
Washington, DC

Thayne M. McCulloh, D.Phil.
President
Gonzaga University
Spokane, WA

Kevin O'Brien, S.J.
Dean
Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara
University
Santa Clara, CA

Jeanne Colleran, Ph.D.
Interim President
John Carroll University
University Heights, OH

Brian F. Linnane, S.J., Ph.D.
President
Loyola University Maryland
Baltimore, MD

Dr. Collen Hanycz
President
La Salle University
Philadelphia, PA

Rev. Kevin Wildes, S.J.
President
Loyola University New Orleans
New Orleans, LA

Linda M. LeMura, Ph.D.
President
Le Moyne College
Syracuse, NY

Brennan O'Donnell
President
Manhattan College
Riverdale, NY

Teresa Maya, CCVI
President
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
Silver Spring, MD

Fr. Martin Solma SM, Provincial
Bro. Joseph Kamis SM, Assistant Provincial
The Marianist Province of the United States
St. Louis, MO

David J. Livingston Ph.D.
President
Lewis University
Romeoville, IL

James E. Collins
President
Loras College
Dubuque, IA

Sr. Gretchen Trautman FMI, Provincial
Sr. Leanne Jablonski FMI, Councilor
Sr. Laura Leming FMI, Councilor
Sr. Nicole Trahan FMI, Councilor
The Marianist Sisters of the US Province
San Antonio, TX; Dayton, OH

Mary Ann Gawelek
President
Lourdes University
Sylvania, OH

Michael R. Lovell
President
Marquette University
Milwaukee, WI

Timothy Law Snyder, Ph.D.
President
Loyola Marymount University
Los Angeles, CA

Gerry Lee
Director
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Washington, DC

Dr. Jo Ann Rooney
President
Loyola University Chicago
Chicago, IL

Matthew Shank
President
Marymount University
Arlington, VA

Patricia A. Lowery, MMS, MD
Coordinator for Health and IntraSociety
Collaboration
Medical Mission Sisters
Philadelphia, PA

Diane E. Melby, Ed.D.
President
Our Lady of the Lake University
San Antonio, TX

Arturo Chávez, Ph.D.
President and CEO
The Mexican American Catholic College
San Antonio, TX

Mary Jo Nelson, OLV
President
Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters
Huntington, IN

Laurie M. Hamen J.D.
President
Mount Mercy University
Cedar Rapids, IA

Sr. Patricia Chappell
Executive Director
Pax Christi USA
Washington, DC

H. James Williams, Ph.D.
President
Mount Saint Joseph University
Cincinnati, OH

Sr Janice Klein, PBVM
President
Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Mother
Aberdeen, SD

Timothy E Trainor, Ph.D.
President
Mount Saint Mary's University
Emmitsburg, MD

Mark Peters
Director of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation
Priests of the Sacred Heart, US Province
Hales Corners, WI

Maribeth Stewart-Blogoslawski
President
National Council of Catholic Women
Arlington, VA

Richard E. Beam
Chief Environmental Officer
Providence St. Joseph Health
Seattle, WA

Sr. Simone Campbell, SSS, JD
Executive Director
NETWORK Lobby for Social Justice
Washington, DC

Rev. John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.
President
Regis University
Denver, CO

Judith Maxwell Greig, Ph.D.
President
Notre Dame de Namur University
Belmont, CA

Rev. Thomas Curran, S.J.
President
Rockhurst University
Kansas City, MO

Very Rev. Jack Clark Robinson, OFM
Provincial
Our Lady of Guadalupe Province
Albuquerque, NM

Sharon Latchaw Hirsh, Ph.D.
President
Rosemont College
Rosemont, PA

Very Rev. Thomas Nairn, OFM
Provincial
Sacred Heart Province
St. Louis, MO

Fred P. Pestello, Ph.D.
President
Saint Louis University
St. Louis, MO

John J. Petillo
President
Sacred Heart University
Fairfield, CT

James A. Donahue
President
Saint Mary's College of California
Moraga, CA

Joan Lescinski, CSJ
President
Saint Ambrose University
Davenport, IA

Brother William Mann, FSC
President
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
Winona, MN

Very Rev. James Gannon, OFM
Provincial
Assumption BVM Province
Franklin, WI

Brian J. Bruess, Ph.D.
President
Saint Norbert College
De Pere, WI

Very Rev. David Gaa, OFM
Provincial
Saint Barbara Province
Oakland, CA

Eugene J. Cornacchia, Ph.D.
President
Saint Peter's University
Jersey City, NJ

Becky Roloff
President
Saint Catherine University
St. Paul and Minneapolis, MN

George E. Martin, Ph.D.
President
Saint Edward's University
Austin, TX

Janice A. Cervelli
President
Saint Mary's College
Notre Dame, IN

Rev. Monsignor Franklyn M. Casale
President
Saint Thomas University
Chair of the Board

Association of Catholic Colleges and
Universities
Miami Gardens, FL

Conrado "Bobby" Gempesaw, Ph.D.
President
Saint John's University, NY
Queens, NY

Michael E. Engh, S.J.
President
Santa Clara University
Santa Clara, CA

Very Rev. Mark Soehner, OFM
Provincial
Saint John the Baptist Province Cincinnati,
OH

Sister Charmaine Krohe, SSND
Provincial
School Sisters of Notre Dame, Atlantic-
Midwest Province

Rev. Stephen V. Sundborg, S.J.
President
Seattle University
Seattle, WA

Mary J. Meehan, Ph.D.
Interim President
Seton Hall University
South Orange, NJ

S. Maryann McMahon, OP
President
Sisters of Saint Dominic
Racine, WI

Mary Albert, OP
President
Siena Heights University
Adrian, MI

Janice Cebula, OSF
President
Sisters of Saint Francis
Clinton, IA

Sister Jane Iannucelli, SC
Sisters of Charity
Bronx, NY

Sr. Marie Cigrand
Vice President
Sisters of St. Francis
Dubuque, IA

LaDonna Manternach, BVM
Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin
Mary
Dubuque, IA

Mary Elizabeth Miller, SCN, President
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western
Province
Nazareth, KY

Sister Janice Bader, C.P.P.S.
President
Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of
O'Fallon, MO

Sister M. Kathryn Dougherty, O.S.F.
Congregational Minister
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Aston, PA

Sr. Toby Lardie, HM
Pastoral Leader
Sisters of the Humility of Mary
Pulaski, PA

Kate O'Donnell, OSF
East Coast Coordinator, JPIC
Sisters of Saint Francis
Philadelphia, PA

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Institute
Leadership Team
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Silver Spring, MD

Sr. Mary Pellegrino, CSJ
Congregational Moderator
Sisters of Saint Joseph
Baden, PA

Sister Edith Wyss, OSF
Provincial Minister
Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and
Christian Charity
Stella Niagara, NY

Laura Reicks, RSM
Susan Sanders, RSM
Maria Klosowski, RSM
Karen Donahue, RSM
Margaret Mary Hinz, RSM
Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community
Omaha, NE

Rosemary Brennan, CSJ
President
Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston
Brighton, MA

Sister Eileen Marnien SSJ
Vice President
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill
Philadelphia, PA

Sr. Michaela Connolly, OP
Prioress
Sisters of Saint Dominic of Blauvelt
Blauvelt, NY

Sister Jean Rosemarynoski
President
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Concordia
Concordia, KS

Sr. Louise Ann Micek
Program Assistant
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Orange
Orange, CA

Patricia McGuire
President
Trinity Washington University
Washington, DC

Sr. Judith Carroll
Provincial
Sisters of Saint Mary of Namur (Eastern
Province)
Buffalo, NY

Eric F. Spina
President
University of Dayton
Dayton, OH

Sister Veronique Wiedower
CSC President
Sisters of the Holy Cross
South Bend, IL

Antoine M. Garibaldi, Ph.D.
President
University of Detroit Mercy
Detroit, MI

Sr. Patricia Anastasio
President
Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed
Virgin Mary
New Windsor, NY

Thomas M. Evans, Ph.D.
President
University of the Incarnate Word
San Antonio, TX

Julianne Brockamp, PBVM
President
Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed
Virgin Mary
Dubuque, IA

Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.
President
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN

Rev. Joseph Rodrigues SDS
Society of the Divine Savior, USA Province
Milwaukee, WI

Arvid C. Johnson, Ph.D.
President
University of St. Francis
Joliet, IL

Sr. Sheila Hammond
Provincial
Society of the Sacred Heart, United States-
Canada Province
St. Louis, MO

Julie H. Sullivan
President
University of Saint Thomas, MN
St. Paul, MN
Christopher P. Puto, Ph.D.
President
Spring Hill College
Mobile, AL

Paul J. Fitzgerald, S.J., Ph.D.
President
University of San Francisco
San Francisco, CA

Richard J. Gilfillan, M.D.
Chief Executive Officer
Trinity Health
Livonia, MI

Sr. Susan Durkin, OSU
President
Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland
Pepper Pike, OH

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

Sr. Beatrice Hernandez, OSF
Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation
Coordinator
Wheaton Franciscans
Wheaton, IL

Michael J. Graham, S.J., Ph.D.
President
Xavier University
Cincinnati, OH

Reynold Verret, Ph.D.
President
Xavier University of Louisiana
New Orleans, LA