

Caring for God's Creation = Caring for the Poor

“If we don't confront climate change, we won't end poverty.”
-World Bank President Jim Yong Kim

“A Christian who does not protect creation
is a Christian who does not care about the work of God.”
- Pope Francis



Drought in East Africa Photo by David Snyder for CRS



Flooding in Asia Photo by CRS

“The data show that dramatic climate changes, heat and weather extremes are **already** impacting people, damaging crops and coastlines and putting food, water, and energy security at risk. Across [Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, and parts of Europe and Central Asia] record-breaking temperatures are occurring more frequently, rainfall has increased in intensity in some places, while drought-prone regions are getting dryer. ...[T]he **poor and underprivileged**, as well as the **elderly and children**, are found to be often **hit the hardest**.”

-World Bank. 2014. *Turn Down the Heat: Confronting the New Climate Normal*. Washington, DC

THE UN CLIMATE IMPACTS REPORT IN NUMBERS

FOOD



All African regions south of the Sahara could see crop yields decrease by

35%



Climate change will reduce global crop yields by up to

2%

per decade for the rest of the century



India's Indo-Gangetic Plains, which produce

14-15%

of the world's wheat, could suffer significant reductions from climate change-induced heat stress, affecting about

200 million
people

Greenhouse gasses, produced in large measure from burning fossil fuels (oil, coal, natural gas), and from agricultural practices and deforestation, are the main culprits in human-caused climate change.

Climate change is linked to wildfires, rising sea levels, flooding, the spread of mosquito-borne diseases, increased heat deaths, decreased crop yields in the Third World, and drought that leads not only to hunger but ultimately to civil unrest and violence.

If we take seriously Christ's command to uphold the lives and dignity of poor people, we must act to stop climate change.

See next page for some ideas on how to PRAY, LEARN and ACT to protect our poor sisters and brothers by protecting the planet.



UNITED NATIONS
FOUNDATION

#CLIMATEIMPACTS #IPCC

- * Ask your pastor to include Pope Francis' universal prayer intention for April during all liturgies:
"That people may learn to respect creation and care for it as a gift of God"
- * Sign this petition to global leaders asking them to drastically cut carbon emissions and to aid the world's poorest in dealing with climate change, and circulate it to others: <http://catholicclimatemovement.global/petition/>
- * Learn about Catholic teaching on climate change, and personal and parish actions to address it:
<http://www.dor.org/index.cfm/catholic-charities/public-policy/care-for-gods-creation-and-the-poor/global-climate-change-resources/>
- * Register for the Diocesan Ministry conference! See below:

2015 Diocesan Social Ministry Conference Care for God's Creation and the Poor



**Saturday May 9, 2015
9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Notre Dame Retreat House
5151 Foster Road
Canandaigua, NY 14424**



\$15 registration fee, includes lunch and materials

Morning Guest Speakers

Dr. Gerry Gacioch, Catholic Climate Ambassador for the Catholic Climate Covenant
on *"Catholic Social Teaching and Climate Change"*

John Strazzabosco, trainer for Focus Plus mentoring program
on *"The Anatomy of Poverty: What Traps People in Generational Poverty"*

Afternoon Program

Meet in small interest groups to learn and share to enrich your ministry

To register: Click here: <http://stbernards.edu/coursebrofferings/register-now-online-registration-forms/continuing-education-special-events/continuing-education-registration/>

Or contact the Justice & Peace Ministry staffer for your county (see list below)

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