



STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH *All of God's Creation*

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, November 12, 2023

Another Opportunity for Substantial Changes to Limit Global Warming

“This November, in Dubai, the United Nations will convene **COP28, the annual international climate conference**. [Conference of the Parties is the main decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.] Along with partners and state affiliates, Interfaith Power & Light will be in attendance, advocating for the United States to play a pivotal leadership role in these global climate negotiations as we remain steadfast in our pursuit to limit global warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius.

As the largest historic emitter of carbon pollution in the world, this is a significant moment for the United States to showcase its dedication to environmental responsibility, which is why we are taking this opportunity to raise our collective voices to impact our nation's position on the climate crisis.

[Join us in signing this letter to President Biden](#) urging our government to commit to ambitious, just, and equitable climate goals, support the implementation of policies that reduce carbon emissions, and lead by example while collaborating with other nations to protect our climate for our children and the generations yet to come.” (Rev. Susan Hendershot, president, *Interfaith Power & Light*)

“The U.S. must have domestic policy in place to curb our own emissions, and we strongly support the implementation of investments in the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. We also support administrative actions to reduce carbon pollution including strong rules related to methane, vehicles, and power plants. Any proposal that fast tracks or expands fossil fuel infrastructure, like oil pipelines, moves us further away from reaching our climate goals and harms our beloved communities on the frontlines. As we move towards a clean energy future, impacted communities must be centered in the discussion.” (Excerpt from the letter.)

In his recent exhortation, *Laudate Deum*, Pope Francis declares that the upcoming international climate talks must yield “**binding forms of energy transition that meet three conditions: that they be efficient, obligatory and readily monitored.**”

“A bloc of Pacific nations at high risk from sea-level rise has already created a framework for such a response: the [Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty](#). As an individual, [you may endorse this call for a just transition away from fossil fuels](#). For even greater impact, please encourage your state legislators and governor to do so as well. The hope is that the more endorsements the treaty concept receives, the better the chance it will become a point of conversation in formal climate talks.” (Mercy Justice Team, 10/5/23)

“We must move beyond the mentality of appearing to be concerned but not having the courage needed to produce substantial changes.” — Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum*, #56

“May those taking part in the Conference be strategists capable of considering the common good and the future of their children, more than the short-term interests of certain countries or businesses. In this way, may they demonstrate the nobility of politics and not its shame.” — Pope Francis, *Laudate Deum* #60

Comments on this column may be directed to the Social Justice Committee at socialjustice@holycrossphl.org.