

## Family of Holy Cross Statement on Climate Change

*“We must recognize our grave duty to hand the earth on to future generations in such a condition that they too can worthily inhabit it and continue to cultivate it. This means being committed to making joint decisions...aimed at strengthening that covenant between human beings and the environment, which should mirror the creative love of God....”*

Benedict XVI, *Caritas In Veritate*, 50

Earth and the life it sustains are precious gifts of God, now radically threatened by climate change and ecological exploitation. Safeguarding these sacred gifts for future generations is a moral responsibility integral to the mission of the Family of Holy Cross.

Climate change is already destroying Earth’s life-support systems, and endangering human health and security. Those least responsible and most affected are poor people and nations. For people of faith, response to this crisis is not an “option”; it is a matter of justice and solidarity.

Therefore, we

Marianites of Holy Cross,  
Priests and Brothers of Holy Cross,  
Sisters of Holy Cross, and  
Sisters of the Holy Cross

will work together to:

- Foster an ethos of care for God’s creation in our members, colleagues, institutions, and those we serve.
- Resist the culture of consumerism and foster models of development that respect the rights of the whole Earth community.
- Reduce energy consumption, increase efficiency, and employ renewable technologies to achieve carbon neutrality in our congregations by 2050.
- Ensure that ecological sustainability is integral to our congregational planning, decision-making, and practices.
- Utilize our financial and human resources to support the development of an ecological economy.
- Urge governments and industries to adopt policies that successfully mitigate climate change and reduce its impacts on those most vulnerable.

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- Promote interdependence, right relationship and commitment to the common good, countering a culture of individualism, greed, exclusion and exploitation.

Marianites of Holy Cross,  
Priests and Brothers of Holy Cross,  
Sisters of Holy Cross, and  
Sisters of the Holy Cross

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Pierrefonds, Quebec, Canada, 30 September 2009