

# Justice, Peace and Life

September 2017

## SEASON OF CREATION

*As we witness the terrible destruction caused by recent hurricanes, we're reminded yet again of the pain and loss of life that extreme weather exacerbated by climate change is already causing. Out of compassion for all those suffering from these storms, let's recommit ourselves to addressing this global crisis.*

The Global Catholic Climate Covenant and other Christian organizations worldwide are calling us to pray and act this month in the lead-up to October 4, the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology.

See [www.seasonofcreation.org](http://www.seasonofcreation.org) for a trove of prayer resources and information on how to get involved.



## Take Action for the Earth, Our Common Home

Join with others during the Season of Creation to call on the World Bank to **divest from fossil fuels**.

“The World Bank manages and invests huge amounts of public money in development projects. We need them to get all their money out of dirty fossil fuels [coal, oil and natural gas] and into affordable renewable energy to reach and benefit even the most vulnerable and remote communities.

This would have a huge financial impact and set a gold standard that other public and private banks would then aspire to.

The World Bank agrees that climate change is affecting the poorest people on the planet. Its goal is to end extreme poverty globally within a generation. However, it still supports a lot of projects that contribute to climate change. The World Bank needs to put its money where its mouth is.

We are calling for much greater transparency about the impact of their investments in energy on the lives of ordinary women, men and children.

**Email the President of the World Bank, Jim Yong Kim, and ask him to stop funding dirty energy once and for all. By selecting your country of residence below, your email will also be sent to your regional World Bank Executive Director to double your impact.”**

**Sign the petition here and pass it along to others:**

[www.christianaid.org.uk/campaigns/climate-change/the-big-shift-global](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/campaigns/climate-change/the-big-shift-global)

## If the World Bank should divest from fossil fuel companies, how about us and our parishes?

*“Since the publication of Laudato Si’, every living person on the planet has been urged to consider how we choose to engage in the world we see unfolding under the threat of the ecological and social crises.*

*Many faithful Catholics are commendably responding by moderating their consumption and embracing sustainable lifestyles including renewable energy technology. However, without careful attention to the way money is being invested, there is a strong possibility of unwittingly supporting the very practices that are degrading our planet.”*

*-Global Catholic Climate Movement*

It’s easy to ask a giant institution like the World Bank to divest from coal, oil and natural gas; it’s harder for us to figure out how we too can put “our money where our mouth (and our values) are.”

Two Catholic colleges in the U.S. (Georgetown and the University of Dayton), a diocese in Italy, and several congregations of religious women are among the Catholic institutions that have already begun pulling their money out of fossil fuels. On October 4, more Catholic institutions are slated to announce they’ve made this decision to divest as well.

Could YOUR parish do the same? It would take research, time, and work, but it is possible.

To learn how, read the Divest-Reinvest Toolkit:

[www.catholicclimatemovement.global/divest-reinvest-toolkit-for-catholic-communities/](http://www.catholicclimatemovement.global/divest-reinvest-toolkit-for-catholic-communities/)

We wouldn’t want Catholic institutions making money off pornography or the manufacture of abortifacients.

We shouldn’t want them making a profit off the destruction of the planet either.



### Non-Fossil Fuel, Green Electricity for Catholic Parishes in the Rochester Diocese!

Thanks to the work of Sean Moran, Manager of Buildings & Properties for our diocese, all our parishes can now be part of a group purchase agreement for electricity that comes from **100% green power**.

Sean reports that, with this new contract, the cost of electricity for our parishes will decrease 30%!

Parishes who were already participating in the diocese’s previous group purchase agreement are automatically included in the new one. Ask your pastor to sign your parish up if it isn’t included already.

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