



## The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change

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**Catholic Climate Covenant**  
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

*Obedience to the voice of the earth is more important for our future happiness than the voices of the moment, the desires of the moment... Existence itself, our earth, speaks to us and we have to learn to listen.*  
Pope Benedict XVI, July 2007

### **Memorandum of Agreement between Catholic Climate Ambassador and The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change**

The purpose of this agreement is to: 1) ensure that the obligations (as outlined below) between the Catholic Climate Ambassador (Ambassador) and the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change (Coalition) are satisfactorily met; 2) to clearly articulate the duties and responsibilities of both parties; and 3) to outline steps for resolution and consequences for non-fulfillment of these obligations.

The primary rationale for this agreement is that as a representative of the Coalition, the Ambassador must agree to conduct him/herself in a way that lends integrity and credibility to the Coalition and its members—including, but not limited to, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. By not clearly articulating the Church's message on this issue or to fail to share authentic Catholic social teaching on caring for Creation and the poor could harm the overall efforts of the Coalition and its partners. This teaching and these messages were carefully outlined during the weekend training event sponsored by the Coalition.

At the same time, the Coalition agrees to fully assist the Ambassadors so they might fulfill their obligations and obtain a high level of confidence in presenting this material to Catholic audiences and others.

As such, the Catholic Climate Ambassador agrees to:

1. Clearly and consistently articulate authentic Catholic social teaching and messaging on the Church's approach to care for Creation generally and climate change in particular, whenever he or she speaks on behalf of the Coalition and in the capacity of Catholic Climate Ambassador. This teaching and these messages have been outlined and agreed to during the March 4-6, 2011 training event held in Los Gatos, California.
2. Create opportunities to ensure that at least five (5) presentations are made in 2011/12 to Catholic parishioners, students, priests, religious educators, local, state, regional or national Catholic organizations or groups, etc.
3. Prepare and submit for approval by the executive director of the Catholic Coalition on Climate change a 45 minute to 1 hour presentation (both PowerPoint slides and text) on a Catholic approach to climate change.
4. Attend additional training opportunities (webinars and conference calls) as developed by the Catholic Coalition on Climate change.

And the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change agrees to:

1. Be continuously available to the Ambassador for individual consultation to review presentation ideas and drafts of articles and to troubleshoot issues that arise in the course of fulfilling the Ambassador's presentation requirements.
2. Provide materials as needed including PowerPoint slides and templates as well as printed materials for use by the Ambassadors.

3. Assist Ambassadors in identifying presentation opportunities in their geographical area and promote the Ambassadors' availability through the Coalition's network of partners and Covenant supporters.
4. Develop opportunities for further training on: presentation skills; new developments in Catholic teaching on the environment and climate change; the Catholic approach to public policy on climate change; and other issues as needed.
5. Provide and maintain a private, online "virtual community" for Ambassadors to share ideas, ask questions, and post materials.

Ambassadors are free to privately and directly challenge the Coalition on its fulfillment of its obligations as stated above. The Ambassador and the director of the Coalition will discuss these issues in private and try to come to a resolution. In the absence of a resolution, Ambassadors are asked to refrain from publicly challenging the Coalition in such a way that 1) the integrity of the Coalition and its partners will be viewed negatively by the public and 2) leads to harm of the essential ministries of the Catholic Church in the United States.

The Coalition will privately challenge the Ambassador should he or she fail to fulfill his/her obligations as stated above. Failure to abide by these obligations will lead the Coalition to; 1) revoke this contract; 2) remove the Ambassador's name from its public listing; and 3) if asked by Catholic staff of parishes, schools, dioceses, and other Catholic entities, advise against inviting the former Ambassador speaking or writing for them.

Agreed to on this day 6 March 2011 by:

Kathleen K. Hirschbach  
Ambassador

Daniel J. Muelh  
Executive Director