



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

Sr. Lois J. Paha, O.P.
Director, Office of Formation
111 S. Church Ave.
P.O. Box 31
Tucson, AZ 85701

April 11, 2011

Dear Sr. Paha:

We are pleased to introduce you to Katie Hirschboeck, a recently trained Catholic Climate Ambassador. She is one of 25 Ambassadors available to offer presentations on the moral implications of climate change and consistent with Catholic teaching as outlined by our Holy Father in his World Day of Peace Message of 2010, *If You Want to Cultivate Peace, Protect Creation*, and in the U.S. Catholic bishops' statement, *Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good*.

Katie is a professor of climatology at the University of Arizona in the Laboratory of Tree-Ring research and a very active member of Our Mother of Sorrows Parish in Tucson. She can be reached by e-mail at: hirschbo77@gmail.com.

Since 2006, the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, the organization responsible for the Ambassador program, has played a pivotal role in the U.S. Catholic response to the enormous challenge of climate change. The Coalition and its many partners, including the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), have developed strategies to foster the spiritual formation and education of Catholics, to create resources, programs and projects that engage youth, families and parishioners, and to spur action that leads to public policy change at local, national and international levels. (For more, go to: catholicclimatecovenant.org)

The Catholic Climate Ambassador program is intended to accelerate these efforts by raising the awareness of Catholics around the U.S. who worship in our parishes, learn in our schools and lead our many ministries.

Each Ambassador has spent two full days understanding the science of climate change as well as the unique and vital contribution the Catholic community offers society as we face together the serious and long-term challenges of a changing climate. In addition, the Coalition has offered further training through a series of "webinars" covering a variety of topics including Catholic teaching on population control, the policy priorities of the U.S. bishops in this area, and how to use PowerPoint effectively.

We want to assure you that the Ambassadors are very clear about the important and unique approach of our Church on climate change. They know that their assignment is neither to sow doubt about the reality of the human contribution to climate change, nor to raise their voices about an imminent end to civilization. Rather they are prepared to encourage audiences to embrace ancient teaching about stewardship of God's good gift of Creation and to live in ways that demonstrate a love of the Creator and in spiritual and practical solidarity with those most impacted now and in the future by climate change, namely, the poor and vulnerable. The Ambassadors understand the power of persuasion and the primacy of hope that are the hallmarks of a faithful

Catholic.

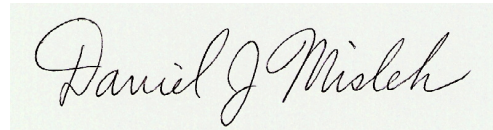
We have also encouraged the Ambassadors to promote the *Catholic Climate Covenant: The St. Francis Pledge to Care for Creation and the Poor*. The USCCB and nearly two-dozen national Catholic organizations have endorsed this campaign. It is designed to help Catholic individuals, families, parishes, schools and organizations fulfill the obligation of their faith to care for both Creation and the poor, who are least responsible for climate change but are already suffering its consequences.

We hope you will find ways to utilize the exceptional talents of Professor Hirschboeck. Please also pass this information along to those with whom you serve and help her discover opportunities to present the Catholic approach to climate change, which, at its core is “about the future of God’s creation and the one human family.” (USCCB: Global Climate Change)

Sincerely,



Most Reverend William Skylsad
Bishop Emeritus, Spokane
Honorary Chairman, Catholic Coalition on Climate Change



Mr. Daniel Misleh
Executive Director

