

Compassion

Faith doing justice in the Central and Southern Province...and beyond

August 2018



CATHOLIC CLIMATE DECLARATION

Nearly 600 U.S. Catholic institutions—including dioceses, communities of men and women religious, health care systems, universities, parishes, schools **and**

the UCS Province—signed the [Catholic Climate Declaration](#) that affirms the Paris Agreement and supports actions to meet its goals. This declaration, initially released on June 18, expresses the U.S. Catholic community's call to climate action, arising from our theological foundation. The Declaration responds to President Trump's decision to withdraw the U.S. from the Agreement, and in solidarity with the [U.S. bishops' position](#) is consistent with the calls for climate action from Pope Francis and his predecessors, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and Saint John Paul II.

The Declaration was organized by Catholic Climate Covenant (CCC), a Washington, DC-based organization that partners with 17 national Catholic institutions including the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Declaration also joins the wider [We Are Still In campaign](#) organized a year ago.

If your Jesuit work did not sign on in the spring, you can still add your institution's name to the list of signatories. **Institutions that sign by Sept. 1, 2018, will be included in the list at the Global Climate Action Summit.** Signatures are also welcome after Sept. 1, in recognition that some institutions have formal decision-making processes occurring after this date.

The Catholic Climate Declaration is also now open to individual signers; to sign as an individual Catholic go [here](#). Additional resources are available at <http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/catholic-climate-declaration>.

SEASON OF CREATION: Sept. 1 - Oct. 4



The Season of Creation is the time of year when the world's 2.2 billion Christians are invited to pray and care for creation. The Season of Creation unites the global Christian family around this shared purpose. In 2015, Pope Francis proclaimed Sept. 1 as a day of prayer for creation for the Roman Catholic Church.

A wealth of resources, including 10 event suggestions, prayer services, an event host checklist, and much more, is on the [Season of Creation website](#). If you are planning some kind of event or prayer during the Season (and we hope that you will) be sure to [register](#) your event to appear on the worldwide event map and receive special resources.



VIGIL FOR IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

As a part of the Campaign for Hospitality, the Ignatian Solidarity Network is initiating a mini-campaign entitled "[A Light in the Darkness: Vigil for Immigrant Families](#)." Both faith communities (parishes, schools, etc.) and individuals are encouraged to participate by keeping a candle lit and praying daily for immigrant families. In every Catholic Church, a candle perpetually burns near the tabernacle, a reminder of the presence of the Body of Christ. This vigil is intended to join in this ancient tradition as we, as members of the Body of Christ, keep vigil with immigrant families – those separated at our southern border, over continents by forced migration, or torn apart by deportation. On the campaign's [website](#), you will find instructions, resources, promotional materials and social media outreach images for individuals and institutions.

2018 SOCIAL GRANTS

Twenty-one UCS Province Social Grants have been given to support a wide variety of projects across the province, evidence of the many ways that Jesuits are accompanying the poor and/or supporting organizations that serve the marginalized. The projects and their Jesuit sponsors include:

- *Youth Encounters 2*, Nicaragua (Brian Strassburger): The project sponsors cultural field trips and personal development workshops for youth from the rural municipality of San Dionisio in Nicaragua.
- *Belize Prison Ministry* (Tom Greene and Bill Snyders): Funds support transportation expenses to the Belize Prison for Jesuits and collaborators to preside at liturgy, offer spiritual direction and assist with 12-step classes for inmates.
- *Ignatian Volunteer Corps* Denver (Dirk Dunfee): Funding to increase the director's hours to accommodate 10 additional volunteers.
- *Ignatian Spirituality Project* Denver (Joe Damhorst): Financial support for four overnight retreats and follow-up days of reflection for 45 people experiencing homelessness and addiction.
- *Martin Luther King Catholic Student Study Center*, Baton Rouge (Tom Clark): Support efforts to accompany students of Southern University by providing study space and becoming a more active presence on campus.
- *Trauma-Informed Care and Racism*, St. Louis (Jeff Putthoff): Introduce trauma-informed care to the faculty of Trinity Catholic High School, which is now 60% African-American.
- *Project HEAL*, Belize (Matt Ruhl): Provide the services of a social worker to serve 50 students who are participants in St. Martin de Porres' Project HEAL program.
- *Verano de Leones*, San Juan (Andrés Vall-Serra): Offer a summer enrichment program for 30 low-income 4th grade students, focusing on basic skills and robotics.
- *Harry Tompson Center Basic Services and Volunteer Coordination*, New Orleans (Tony McGinn): Coordinate volunteers who help to provide shower, phone, medical and mental health services for more than 5,000 guests each month.
- *Claver Works Commons*, St. Louis (Patrick Quinn): In collaboration with St. Matthew the Apostle Parish, offer Saturday education, summer camp and Read and Feed programs.
- *Hurtado Scholars*, Kansas City (Bill Sheahan): Support for Rockhurst High School's weekly and summer education and art enrichment program for 30 middle school boys from economically challenged households.
- *Documentation Assistance Program*, St. Louis (Dan White): This program of St. Francis Xavier College Church assists people with limited resources to obtain State ID cards and birth certificates.
- *Reaching Out, Building Up*, Grand Coteau (Mark Thibodeaux): Provide operating support for after-school tutoring, summer camp and senior activities programs.
- *Hispanic Ignatian Retreats*, Lake Dallas (Anthony Borrow): Underwrite the costs of retreat expenses at Montserrat Retreat House for two annual retreats for Hispanic people.
- *Belize Jesuit Inculturation Initiative* (Sam Wilson): Tuition for Frs. Wilson and Christopher to engage in language study in Q'echi and Garifuna and compile language resources for Jesuits who minister in the region in the future.
- *Early Education for Con En School*, Vietnam (Hanh Pham): Provide childcare for young children in Con En, an isolated island in the Mekong Delta of southern Vietnam.
- *Spartan Summer Mission*, St. Louis (Jeff Harrison): Provide an opportunity at De Smet Jesuit for students from under-resourced schools to participate in summer and Saturday enrichment programs.
- *Belize Restorative Justice Project* (Brian Christopher): Purchase materials and equipment to conduct retreats and workshops in Belize City to help communities understand violence, reconciliation and conflict transformation in light of their faith traditions.
- *Rapid Response Infrastructure: Protecting Our Immigrant Neighbors*, Albuquerque (Warren Broussard): Train and place volunteers to assist immigrants threatened with arrest and deportation by ICE and provide financial assistance to families in the aftermath of detention or deportation of a family member.
- *Jesuit Summer Bridge*, Tampa (Frank Brou): Provide an academic summer enrichment program for high achieving, low-income middle school students, focusing on basic school subjects, thinking and creativity.
- *Our Lady of Guadalupe Advocacy Project*, San Antonio (Michael Bouzigard): Develop and train mission outreach teams to determine social needs and engage in civic action on those needs.