

Compassion

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

June 2018

TELL THE WORLD – CATHOLICS ARE STILL IN ON CLIMATE CHANGE!

Soon after Pope Francis’s encyclical *Laudato Si’* was released in 2015, global leaders signed the Paris Climate Agreement — uniting nearly every nation in seeking measurable ways of curbing climate change. This agreement responded to the call of *Laudato Si’* to care for the earth and its inhabitants, particularly those most vulnerable. In light of last year’s decision by the U.S. government to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement, the U.S. Catholic community is coming together to stand firm in our commitment to care for our common home through the Catholic Climate Covenant’s “[Catholic Climate Declaration](#),” affirming the commitment of U.S. Catholic institutions (e.g., parishes, dioceses, schools, college/universities, healthcare facilities, etc.) to stand by the Paris Climate Agreement and help meet its goals.

Any Catholic institution can sign on, including parishes, schools, universities, retreat centers, social ministries, Jesuit communities, etc. *The Jesuit Conference and our own UCS Province endorsed the Declaration*; you can [read the Declaration and sign on here](#). The deadline for signatories, June 11, 2018, is quickly approaching. The Declaration will be publicly released on June 18, the third anniversary of *Laudato Si’*, after which there will be an opportunity for individuals to sign on.

The Catholic Climate Covenant has created a number of resources including [FAQs](#), [leave-behinds](#), [sample letters](#), and a [letter from Bishop Pates](#) (Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa) in support of the Declaration. You can also read about [Cardinal Tobin’s](#) recent affirmation of the Declaration on behalf of the Archdiocese of Newark.

culture, conversation, tradition and stories with newcomers, immigrants, refugees, and long-time residents. The Ignatian Solidarity Network has put together some terrific resources to help with taking this on as a project, including planning guides, downloadable welcome signs, conversation starters and prayer guides; all of these can be accessed at <https://ignatiansolidarity.net/campaignforhospitality/come-to-the-table-potlucks>



ACTION ALERT TO PROTECT IMMIGRANT FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Could anything be more damaging to the welfare of traumatized migrant children than separating them from their parents? Yet this is precisely the policy of the U.S. government. Since October 2017, [more than 700 children have been separated](#) from their parents and rendered “unaccompanied,” including more than 100 children under the age of four. Then on May 4, 2018, the Department of Homeland Security announced that they will refer all individuals who cross the border without authorization for criminal prosecution, including adult family members of family units. If fully implemented, this policy will lead to a dramatic increase in incidences of family separation.

You can [take action here](#), a USCCB site where you can send a message to Congress asking that they protect immigrant children and families seeking safety and shelter from violence by keeping these families together.



A COOL IDEA FOR THIS SUMMER: COME TO THE TABLE POTLUCKS WITH IMMIGRANTS

The Ignatian Solidarity Network is encouraging parishes, schools, communities and families to get to know and understand their immigrant brothers and sisters in

a more personal way this summer by sponsoring “Come to the Table” potlucks. The idea behind these events, which are part of The Campaign for Hospitality, is to break bread, share

REDUCING THE THROW AWAY CULTURE BY REDUCING PLASTIC USE

As mentioned in the April issue of *Compassion*, the Catholic Climate Covenant focused on the overuse of single-use disposable plastics as part of their Earth Day 2018 commemoration. You can continue to promote this effort beyond Earth Day by printing and posting this graphic on "9 Tips for Living with Less Plastic." Oh – and you can challenge yourself and others to act on these tips!

9 TIPS FOR LIVING WITH LESS PLASTIC

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1 Bring your own shopping bag
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2 Carry a reusable water bottle
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3 Bring your own cup
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4 Pack your lunch in reusable containers
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5 Say no to disposable straws & cutlery
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6 Skip the plastic produce bags
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7 Slow down and dine in
- 

8 Store leftovers in glass jars
- 

9 Share these tips with your friends

LESS PLASTIC.

