

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation News

Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours



COP24 Climate Change

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"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue."

(Pope Francis, Laudato Si')

Every year for the past 24 years, the nations of the world have gathered in the UN-convened "Conference of the Parties (COP)" to discuss solutions to the climate crisis. A peak in this process was achieved in 2015 at COP21, which was held in Paris and saw the creation of the Paris Climate Agreement to limit greenhouse gas emissions. This year's COP24 in Katowice, Poland, was particularly crucial because 2018 was the deadline that the signatories of the Paris Agreement agreed upon in order to adopt a "rule book" for the implementation of the Paris commitments. After two weeks of negotiations the 197 nations gathered for the climate change conference, adopted on December 15th a set of implementing guidelines aimed at keeping global warming well below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels.

This issue of JPIC news will provide a glimpse of some of the events that were part of COP24 as well as the efforts of Bon Secours worldwide to "defend and care for all creation".

Some Progress is Better than None

- Nearly 200 governments agreed on a "rulebook" to implement the 2015 Paris Agreement.
- Rich nations agreed to contribute more money to help poorer countries deal with the impact of global warming, and to give developing countries some leeway in meeting the rules on cutting their emissions.
- Developing nations agreed on common reporting requirements to track countries' emissions reduction efforts — something that will apply to all countries.
- Developed countries agreed to give more information on their past and future financial contributions for developing countries.
- European nations, Canada, and some Latin American countries agreed to require greater climate efforts by 2020 and recognize the findings of the IPCC report.



But We Have A Long Way to Go

- The fossil fuel industry greatly influenced the USA, Russia, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in blocking serious discussion about the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's recent dire assessment on climate change.
- The decision of the USA to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, allowed other nations to slow their obligations. Jair Bolsonaro, the President of Brazil, has said his country will withdraw from the Paris Agreement.
- Lack of strong mechanisms for enhancing ambition to reduce GHG emissions show that governments are not accepting their responsibility to fully implement the Paris Agreement commitments.

*"Politicians of wealthy nations
should be humble enough to recognize
their duty to put the interests of others first,
to understand that we share
one common home."*

Statement by

International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity.

January
JPIC Days of Remembrance

January 1
World Day of Peace
(Catholic Church)

January 21
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (USA)

January 24
Foundation Day
Sisters of Bon Secours of Paris



In the spirit of our Foundress,
Josephine Potel,
may we be a healing,
compassionate and liberating
presence on and for Earth,
our common home.

January 27
International Commemoration
for Victims of the Holocaust

Sisters of Bon Secours... Women of healing... defending and caring for all creation (Mission Focus)

“The global shift to clean energy is underway, but much more needs to be done by governments to accelerate the low carbon transition and to improve the resilience of our economy, society and the financial system to climate risks.” António Guterres

Climate Pilgrimage

Catholics from all over the world – Asia, Pacific Islands, America and Europe – participated in a Climate Pilgrimage from Vatican City to Katowice. They walked 1500 kilometers from October 4 to December 4 to raise attention to the fact that millions of people across the globe suffer from climate crisis and catastrophes, such as drought, floods and typhoons.



How can you “walk the walk” in this new year to raise attention about climate change? What opportunities are there for you to put pressure on local and national leaders?

Investors Call for Action on Climate Change

Ahead of COP24 a record 415 investors managing over US \$32 trillion in assets, including **Sisters of Bon Secours USA**, called on world governments to:

- Achieve the Paris Agreement’s goals
- Accelerate private sector investment into the low carbon transition
- Commit to improve climate-related financial reporting

As investors we reiterate our full support for the Paris Agreement and strongly urge all governments to implement the actions that are needed to achieve the goals of the Agreement, with the utmost urgency. The investor statement was delivered to COP24 participants.

World sports Join Team UN in Race Against Climate Change

Major organizations from the world of sports joined an increasing number of private sector businesses in the race to beat global warming. 17 major players representing sporting bodies, athletes and fans launched the *Sports Climate Action Framework*. These include the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), and the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) as well as organizers of the Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics and the Paris 2024 Summer Olympics.



The sports industry bears responsibility for extensive carbon emissions in several areas including through travel, overall energy use, venue construction and catering. With this initiative, it recognizes the need to unite behind a set of principles to get on track for a net-zero emissions economy by 2050.

COP24: The Next Generation Speaks



Greta Thunberg, a 15 year old from Sweden, stunned the world at COP24 when she denounced world leaders for inaction and told them: “Change is coming whether you like it or not. The people will rise to the challenge. And since our leaders are behaving like children, we will have to take the responsibility they should have taken long ago.” Every Friday, Greta protests outside the parliament building in Stockholm instead of attending school, and her actions have inspired thousands of students across the globe to do the same. She plans to end her strike when Sweden starts cutting carbon emissions by 15 percent a year.

How loudly are you challenging your government leaders to address climate change?

**“I like school,
and I like learning,
but why should we
be studying
for a future that soon
may be no more!”**

Greta Thunberg

Hieroglyphic Stairway by Drew Dellinger (Excerpt)

*It's 3.23 in the morning
and I'm awake
because my dreams
won't let me sleep.
my great-great-grandchildren
ask me in dreams
what did you do while the planet was plundered?
what did you do when the earth was unraveling?
surely you did something
when the seasons started falling?
as the mammals, reptiles, birds
were all dying?
did you fill the streets with protest
when democracy was stolen?
what did you do
once
you
knew?*



How would you answer the questions posed in this poem?

Let the questions move you to action in 2019.

Ecological Efforts around the Congregation

At our December JPIC meeting committee members reported that the following initiatives are taking place as a way to address climate change in the countries where Bon Secours minister:

- **France:** Buying locally, consuming less red meat, reducing packaging, using LED bulbs and reducing bottled water.
- **Ireland:** Transitioning to solar panels has begun and all local houses are composting.
- **Peru:** JPIC members are offering workshops to women and children on Ecology and Non-violence. (See photo at right)
- **United States:** JPIC members are preparing an Ecological Resource and will be making another attempt to assess our carbon footprint.



International Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Committee

- Sr. Teresa Margot Benites Montero, CBS (Peru)
- Sr. Fran Gorsuch, CBS (USA)
- Sr. Mary Beth Hamm, SSJ Co-chair
- Sr. Mary Leamy, CBS (Ireland)
- Sr. Anne Marie Mack, CBS (USA) Chair
- Sr. Noelia Lara Núñez, CBS (Peru)
- Sr. Marguerite Provost, CBS (France)
- Sr. Alice Talone, CBS (USA)
- Sr. Katherine Tierney, CBS (Ireland)
- Sr. Yolanda Morales Valiente, CBS (Peru)
- Sr. Chris Webb, CBS (USA)