Family of Holy Cross Statement on Climate Change

“We must recognize our grave duty to hand the earth on to future
generations in such a condition that they too can worthily inhabit it and
continue to cultivate it. This means being committed to making joint
decisions...aimed at strengthening that covenant between human beings and
the environment, which should mirror the creative love of God....”

Benedict XVI, Caritas In Veritate, 50

Earth and the life it sustains are precious gifts of God, now radically
threatened by climate change and ecological exploitation. Safeguarding
these sacred gifts for future generations is a moral responsibility integral to
the mission of the Family of Holy Cross.

Climate change is already destroying Earth’s life-support systems, and
endangering human health and security. Those least responsible and most
affected are poor people and nations. For people of faith, response to this
crisis is not an “option”; it is a matter of justice and solidarity.

Therefore, we

Marianites of Holy Cross,
Priests and Brothers of Holy Cross,
Sisters of Holy Cross, and
Sisters of the Holy Cross

will work together to:

- Foster an ethos of care for God’s creation in our members, colleagues,
institutions, and those we serve.
- Resist the culture of consumerism and foster models of development
that respect the rights of the whole Earth community.
- Reduce energy consumption, increase efficiency, and employ
renewable technologies to achieve carbon neutrality in our
congregations by 2050.
- Ensure that ecological sustainability is integral to our congregational
planning, decision-making, and practices.
- Utilize our financial and human resources to support the development
of an ecological economy.
- Urge governments and industries to adopt policies that successfully
mitigate climate change and reduce its impacts on those most
vulnerable.
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- Promote interdependence, right relationship and commitment to the common good, countering a culture of individualism, greed, exclusion and exploitation.

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Sisters of Holy Cross, and
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Pierrefonds, Quebec, Canada, 30 September 2009