The Values of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Climate Change Task Force

Values that permeate our work, our 5 Pillar Teams’ activities and our formational documents:

1. We dedicate ourselves to the Christian vision of a “sacramental universe” as articulated by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.
   
   (T)he whole universe is God’s dwelling... (we) meet the Creator on mountaintops, in vast deserts, and alongside waterfalls.... It is to the Creator that we are accountable for what we do or fail to do to preserve and care for the earth and all its creatures.¹

2. We aspire to protect all God’s children, both now and in future generations, from the various environmental threats to God’s creation.

3. We follow the Catechism virtue of Prudence. As the U.S. Catholic Bishops’ said, prudence is intelligence applied to our actions.² We seek always to be informed by the best scientific knowledge in safeguarding God’s creation.

4. We prayerfully seek to embody the life and teachings of Jesus Christ in our faith walk-- doing unto others as we would have them do unto us, loving our enemies, and acknowledging that every human is an essential part of the body of Christ.

5. We acknowledge the great blessings of living in America and our responsibility, with America consuming a disproportionate share of the world’s resources, to take a leadership role in addressing climate change and other threats to God’s creation through sustainability.³

6. We commit ourselves to modeling behaviors needed to care for God’s creation and partnering with other people and organizations to build a way of life that allows all people around the world to live in safety and comfort.

7. Our activities will reflect the direction given to us by the Holy Father, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Conference of Ohio, and our Archbishop.

8. We pursue activities within the structure of the St. Francis Pledge, considering work in the areas of prayer, learning, assessment, action and advocacy.⁴ Through our meetings we will determine where to focus our endeavors and we will bear with one another in love.⁵

9. We aspire to be an inspiration and resource for Archdiocesan families, institutions and students in carrying out the St. Francis Pledge.

10. In the public square, we will act as people of faith, aspiring to bring people of opposing views together, promote dialogue without disparagement, and foster united action in restoring creation and protecting the most vulnerable.

³ Reference Ibid.
⁴ See www.catholicclimatecovenant.org
⁵ Ephesians 4:2