

July 24, 2008

My Dear Brothers in Christ,

I am happy to inform you that our diocese received a grant in January, 2007 from the New York State Catholic Conference of Bishops for \$1,000 to begin the process of educating and advocating around the issue of Global Climate Change within parishes. With this grant the Diocesan Global Climate Incentive Committee has already offered a workshop on the Catholic Response to Global Climate Change in October of 2007 at St. John the Baptist in Kenmore with 80 people in attendance. The Committee is presently planning another workshop on October 18, 2008 at Hilbert College in Hamburg.

We are blessed with the Diocesan Global Climate Change Incentive Committee, which is implementing an education plan for our diocese. Of course, with any diocesan plan we need the support and assistance of our pastors and clergy. I am asking you to do the following:

1. Encourage your parishioners to attend the workshop that will be offered on October 18, 2008 entitled *Global Climate Change: Continuing the Catholic Response* which is being held at Hilbert College, 5200 South Park Avenue, Hamburg, NY.
2. Appoint a person from your parish to be a contact person between your parish and the Global Climate Incentive Committee that is sponsoring this workshop. This person will be responsible to share with your parish the information given by the Committee about the workshop and assist the committee in the education of the parish concerning the issue of caring for God's creation. The committee presently has contact people from 12 of our parishes who have actively worked to serve the pastor and people on this issue.

What will the Global Climate Change Committee do for you and your parish?

1. Provide short announcements that can be used in your parish bulletin on the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishop's June, 2001 statement *Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good* and other Church teachings.
2. Continue to organize and offer a day-long workshop on global climate change.
3. Be a resource for assistance in your parish on this issue.

I recognize the many demands placed upon you. I appreciate your attention to this request. Please contact Sister Sharon Goodremote, FSSJ, at Catholic Charities, 853-4424 Ext. 3006 with the name of the contact person for your parish and if you have any questions concerning this matter.

Be assured of my grateful and prayerful best wishes.

Fraternally in Christ,

Most Rev. Edward U. Kmiec
Bishop of Buffalo