



Climate and Me

We commit ourselves to... “Live an ethical style of life in which every choice we make is grounded in critical awareness of its impact on society and the planet.” (General Chapter Directives – 2009)

Song: (Your choice)

Reflection:

Climate change presents major challenges to all parts of our communities, including water resources, human health, the economy, natural systems, frequent and severe droughts, floods, extreme storms, sea level rise, heat waves and many others. It is expected to worsen over the next few decades, even if we drastically reduce emissions today. While climate change is a global phenomenon, scientists assure us that the climate has often changed in the past, but for the first time it is changing as a result of human action, or rather human criminal negligence. This change is occurring far more rapidly than what geological research reveals about previous shifts, and as a result, much of our flora and fauna do not have time to adjust in a way to guarantee their survival. In a few decades, hundreds of millions of people may become ‘climate refugees’, that is, fleeing from areas which can no longer sustain habitation. The increased production of greenhouse gases has added to an increase in global warming. The biggest emitters of greenhouse gases being our energy production and transport systems, overwhelmingly based on fossil fuels (oil, coal, gas) whose use results in high emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Industrial and some agricultural processes also release carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases such as nitrous oxide, methane, and fluorocarbons. You have also seen the increasing media focus on melting glaciers and polar ice caps, rising sea levels, floods, hurricanes, droughts, heat waves – all attributed to climate change.

What can we do about global warming and its impact on all God’s creation? There is a path forward but it will take all of us, convinced that we can change the direction of global warming by little conscious acts such as recycling and/or buying local food produce. We also need to convince political leaders to create laws that improve our energy policy, and push companies to adopt sustainable business practices on a global level. It will take all of us working together to stop the present direction of global warming. How committed am I to doing this?

Personal Reflection: Ps: 46, Act 2: 1-4, Isa 24: 4-6

Sharing....

Prayer - God, earth, air and water are your creation, and every living thing belongs to you have mercy on us as climate change confronts us. Give us the will and the courage to simplify the way we live, to reduce the energy we use, to share the resources you provide and to bear the cost of change. (Earth Charter)