

We Are Launching Paris 2015 and Counting...

Patricia Farrell, OP



When the Dominican Sisters Conference met in Chicago for Convocation 2012, we were challenged by the question,

What is Earth Asking of the Order?

Over the past 18 months we have been engaged across the country in a process of reflection using *The Faith Praxis Cycle* to help us understand Global Climate Change.

The hope was and remains that we are moved to action on behalf of God's People and Earth.



One year from today, November 30, 2015, the world's leaders will gather in Paris for what may be the most significant climate summit to date – *Paris 2015*. Today, on November 30, 2014, the first Sunday of Advent, we hear in the Gospel,

“Be on your guard, stay awake.”

Our hope is that not only do we stay awake, but that we also awaken our national leaders to grasp the depth of the current climate crisis and the importance of taking the appropriate actions to insure a viable future for all of creation.



We can't help but note that the timing of *Paris 2015* is in such close proximity to the DSC Convocation in October 2015.

Is this sheer coincidence, or is the Spirit at work?

Over the course of the next year, you will receive a monthly reflection, making the connection between Global Climate Change and the critical issues of our time, eg. human trafficking, water, migration, poverty, etc. We trust this will help us collectively to understand, reflect and take appropriate actions regarding the vitally important issue of the climate crisis.

Our hope is to have sustained communication with our elected political leaders/legislators on the issue of Global Climate Change. We want to encourage them to make sure that the U.S. is in the forefront of setting the stage for greenhouse gas reduction and other appropriate actions. Recently following an historic agreement between the U.S. and China to reduce carbon emissions, President Obama stated:

The United States of America is stepping up to the plate. We recognize our role in creating this problem. We embrace our responsibility to combat it. We will do our part, and we will help developing nations do theirs.

This is the kind of leadership the world desperately needs, and what we as a conference hope to support over the next year through prayer and action. More information about communications to our elected leaders will follow in the months to come.

To that end, we invite you to engage in active waiting this Advent by including the issue of Global Climate Change as part of your Advent prayer and waiting. If you would like to engage or re-engage with the Faith Praxis Cycle, simply search for Global Climate Change and the Praxis Cycle on the Amazon website – after you've entered Amazon from the DSC portal, of course.

Please pray that the reflective process and suggested action will be a meaningful and engaging process for us as a conference as we seek to speak with one voice on this critical issue.

Stay Awake!

In Catherine and Dominic,

The Paris 2015 Subcommittee for the Convocation Planning Committee

Pat Daly
Pat Farrell
Margaret Galiardi
Lyn Kirkconnell

Marcelline Koch
Margaret Mayce
Claire McGowan
Sharon Zayac



Our Advent Prayer
Apocalyptic Awakening

O Holy One,
we are a sleepy lot,
slow to stir to the calling of the cosmos,
deaf to the cries of Earth
and the forgotten ones,
human and other-than-human.

We distract ourselves
with trivialities that have become idols;
while the sun and the moon darken,
and the stars fall from the skies,
we are mesmerized by the market's alluring power,
eyes unflinchingly fixed upon the navel of our own net worth.

"O that you would dear open the heavens and come down,"
cries the prophet, or at least tear open our hearts, pry open our eyes,
and end this slumber that blocks out pain,
but with it, wonder.

Our hope, O Holy One, is found in eyes wide open,
in hearts linked in common cause,
in small gestures of compassion,
and in alertness to your coming,
again and again.
As fire kindles brushwood
and causes water to boil,
so we await to be set on fire
with hope and gospel passion.

Amen.

From *If Darwin Prayed*, by Bruce Sanguin

