

Message regarding the Weather Conference

The Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word San Antonio are proud to be among the co-signers of the Climate Resolution. Speaking on behalf of the Incarnate Word Sisters at the Press Conference was Sister Elizabeth Riebschlaeger, CCVI. Below is her statement:

"On behalf of my religious congregation, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word of San Antonio, it is a joy and a blessing to be invited to join with many of our brothers and sisters in the interfaith community of Texas in signing onto this Resolution today. The unity of our voices speaks to the importance of this issue to all citizens of Texas, the US and the world. Our strength is in the unity of our hearts and minds and voices, advocating here for our shared Earth as the Cradle of all Life.

We are entering a season of celebration of the Mystery of Love and Giving. It become a season that calls us out of our self-centered, selfish existence to learn to love unselfishly, to give more than to receive, to forgive and be forgiven, to reconcile and be reconciled. It is a season, however, where this season of love for the other has become a season of self-centered thoughts of what "I" am to receive. It has become a plunge into rampant celebration of consumerism that is destroying the planet. To save this planet, we need to recommit to live out instead, the way of unselfish love and concern for others and our Common Good. It will require true conversion of hearts, minds and life choices. It will require the power of Love to save us.

Pope Francis, who has called us to a powerful reality check with his encyclical "Laudato Si", reminds us in Article 207:

"The Earth Charter asked us to leave behind a period of self-destruction and make a new start, but we have not as yet developed a universal awareness needed to achieve this. Here, I would echo that courageous challenge: 'As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning. . . Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle of justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life'."

The children of Texas, our nation and our world depend on us for their survival. They live and grow in the world we adults create for them. Let us give clean, plentiful water, clean air and tillable soil on Earth a chance to survive. This Earth is the Cradle from which all life springs forth. Let us preserve it as the children's most precious inheritance. Let us pray that our unified voice on behalf of a cleaner, safer Earth will spread, like the branches of this mighty oak, throughout world to give life and the children a chance to survive and thrive."