



AMERICAN NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

5 June 2017

A PASTORAL LETTER FROM ANCC PRESIDING BISHOP GEORGE R. LUCEY, FCM, ON THE PRESIDENT'S WITHDRAW FROM THE PARIS ACCORD

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

The psalmist tells us that "the earth is the Lord's, and all that dwells therein." This reminds us of the fact, proclaimed in Genesis and affirmed by centuries of Hebraic and Christian tradition, that God's creation is good and that we humans are called to be grateful stewards of it.

Unhappily, the good earth is in trouble. The vast majority of climate scientists conclude that human activity, particularly the extensive use of fossil fuels, is accelerating global warming's extreme weather patterns, rising sea levels, and glacial erosion to an alarming degree. The danger to the planet also poses a grave threat to human well-being.

It is, therefore, profoundly regrettable that the President has chosen to withdraw the United States from the Paris Accord, the unprecedented agreement that pledges the nations of the world to curtail greenhouse gas emissions. Only two nations, Syria and Nicaragua, refused to sign the Accord.

The U.S. now joins them.

The withdrawal from the Paris Accord is accompanied by the President's refusal to honor the U.S. pledge to the Green Climate Fund. The Fund offers financial aid to developing nations, which will be unduly penalized by a reduction of fossil fuel use.

The President's decisions not only display a disregard for the health of the planet, but also suggest an unwillingness to accept responsibility for the fact that the U.S. has the largest carbon footprint in history and remains today the globe's second largest emitter of carbon dioxide.

The American National Catholic Church joins all people of good will throughout the world in the fervent hope that the current President will awaken to the obligation, born of love for the Creator and creation, to cherish and protect the environment.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George R. Lucey, FCM".

Most Reverend George R. Lucey, FCM
Presiding Bishop