



CARMEngo

BULLETIN OF THE CARMELITE NGO

WINTER 2010 - VOL 3, NUMBER 1

These efforts, [education in environmental responsibility] are about working on lifestyles, as the current dominant models of consumption and production are often not sustainable from the point of view of social, environmental, economic and even moral analysis. We must safeguard creation – soil, water and air – as a gift entrusted to everyone ...

*Intervention of Holy See
Copenhagen Climate Conference
December 17, 2009*



Copenhagen, a Small Step: NOW We Need a Big Step

Climate Change Has Serious Consequences for All Aspects of Life

Most agree that the Accord reached at Copenhagen did not achieve the success that was hoped. The Accord was “recognized” by the 193 nations present at the Copenhagen Summit rather than “approved” which would have required unanimous support.

Therefore, the Accord is not legally binding; however, there were positive steps made in Copenhagen. For one, the Accord recognized the need to limit global temperatures from rising more than two degrees centigrade (2C) above pre-industrial levels. This may seem uneventful, but setting a figure (2C) gives nations a target that can be used in developing and implementing policies with respect to climate change. It is also a standard that nations can be judged as to whether they keep their commitment to stay below 2C in their mitigation. The Accord promises to deliver financial assistance of US\$30 billion of aid for developing nations over the next three years. It outlines a goal of providing US\$100 billion a year by 2020 to help poor nations cope with the impacts of climate change.

Climate change has serious consequences for all aspects of life especially on global food security. Changing weather patterns impact the world's food resources by expanding droughts that affect crop yields, ocean acidification that

alters ecosystems and causes a decrease in fish population and extreme weather conditions that destroy ecosystems.

The climate change discussion has caused us to think about how life on Earth will change, not only as a result of global warming, but also in response to efforts to mitigate its effects and which international and/or domestic policy choices will be made to adapt to the changed circumstances.

Climate change is already affecting the lives and livelihoods of millions of people. This is primarily the result of the impact of global warming on weather patterns and weather crises, as documented by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Those most affected may be a function of chance, for example, the loss of sufficient water to sustain life in a fragile zone. Much depends on the political and economic choices that are made. Human choices influence both the pace of climate change and the extent to which we build resilience to its effects.

Less visible are the impacts resulting from policies intended to address climate change. The requirement to mitigate climate change through diminished use of fossil fuels, through forest conservation, or changes in

“The impacts of climate change will fall disproportionately upon developing countries and the poor persons within all countries, and thereby exacerbate inequities in health status and access to adequate food, clean water, and other resources.”

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), 2001

are factors to be accounted for and assessed in weighing appropriate policy measures.

Most scientists no longer doubt the human causes of climate change. The IPCC reports that anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions increased by 70% between 1970 and 2004. Global increases of carbon dioxide and other GHG concentrations are primarily due to fossil fuel use, deforestation, and non-sustainable agricultural practices. The accumulation of these gases in the atmosphere alters the natural GHG effect. The greenhouse effect results when the temperature rises because the sun's heat and light are trapped in the earth's atmosphere. An automobile parked in a parking lot on a very hot day with its windows closed and no shade can demonstrate this effect. The inside of the automobile gets hotter and hotter because the heat and light from the sun can get into the automobile by going through the windows, but cannot get out. This is what the greenhouse effect does to the earth. The sun's heat and light can get through the earth's atmosphere, but cannot get out. As a result, the temperature raises causing global warming and climate change.

Global warming affects access to and production of food. Global warming leads to changing weather patterns, including variations in temperature as well as wind and water distribution patterns. Global warming affects broader ecosystems, altering long-standing biodiversity in regions across the globe. Alterations in weather patterns and ecosystems have major impacts on food availability, accessibility, adequacy, and sustainability.

continued on page 3

CarmeNGO is published four times each year and is distributed to those interested in the mission of the NGO. For more information or to add your name and address to our mailing list, please visit our website (carmelitengo.org) or write to us by email (jremson@carmelitengo.org) or by regular post at 1725 General Taylor Street; New Orleans, LA 70115; USA)

Links to Sites About Copenhagen and Climate Change:

COP 15: Copenhagen Climate Change Conference (2009)
en.cop15.dk

Act on Copenhagen
www.actoncopenhagen.decc.gov.uk

Oxfam Education: Climate Change – Copenhagen
www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/climate_change_copenhagen/

BBC News: Copenhagen in Graphics
news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8359629.stm

Climate Change Copenhagen: Time to be Bold
www.climatechangecopenhagen.org/

World Business Summit on Climate Change
www.copenhagenclimatetradeandbusinesssummit.com/world-business-summit.html

Gateway to UN System's Work on Climate Change
www.un.org/wcm/content/site/climate-change/gateway

Greenpeace International: Stop Climate Change
www.greenpeace.org/international/campaigns/climate-change

For your convenience, these and other resources are linked on our website: carmelitengo.org



The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 1 billion people have no access to any type of improved source of drinking water. As the climate changes, available water will become less and less.

Drought is one of the most documented results of global warming. It has become increasingly common in arid inland areas around the globe, requiring farmers and other food producers to migrate great distances, making them unable to sustain livestock and crops that previously thrived in their home regions.

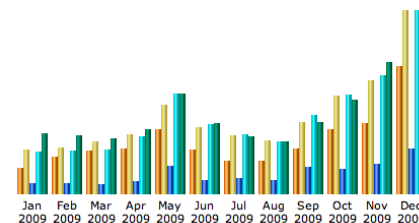
The 2008 *Message On The Occasion of World Food Day*, Pope Benedict XVI wrote; "In the changing context of international relations, where uncertainties seem to be growing and new challenges are glimpsed, the experience acquired to date by the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations alongside that of other institutions active in the fight against hunger can play a fundamental role in promoting a new way of understanding international cooperation. One essential condition for increasing production levels, for guaranteeing the identity of indigenous communities as well as peace and security in the world, is to guarantee access to land, thereby favoring farm workers and upholding their rights."

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack made this statement at the Copenhagen Summit; "Both food security and climate change challenges need to be addressed simultaneously and urgently, with responsible action considering both, in a holistic and coherent manner. Only in this way, can we (1) achieve food security, for which adaptation of agricultural systems is crucial and (2) avoid catastrophic climate change, which requires that agriculture and forestry contribute to overall mitigation efforts to reduce and remove greenhouse gases. Food security and climate change are intrinsically linked and closely intersect in the agriculture sector."

With all the information we have no person can claim ignorance of the importance of getting involved in the issue of climate change. Knowledge of the scientific information is not enough. We must get involved in the political choices that will affect policies relative to climate change. In this regard we have the teachings of the Church to help us clarify our input into the debate on which policies will be best for the common good.

In his 1967 encyclical *Populorum Progressio* Pope Paul VI writes; "No one is justified in keeping for his exclusive use what he does not need

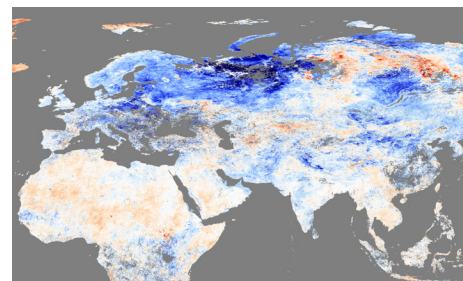
How Effectively Is the Word Getting Out About the Carmelite NGO?



Our participation at the UN requires us to disseminate information on UN projects and programs. Our membership in the Order requires us to view those projects and programs through Carmelite filters.

A newly distributed booklet, available from the Carmelite NGO offices, outlines the principle focuses of the group. Other information is available through the Carmelite NGO's quarterly bulletin, *carmeNGO*.

The Carmelite NGO's website also provides much information and valuable links for obtaining additional information on a variety of services from the UN and projects the Carmelite NGO is linked up with. It is here that the leadership has noted some very interesting data. Using statistics provided by the service hosting the website, the number of unique visitors increased from 324 in January 2009 to 1661 in January 2010. This is compared to similar increases in the previous month when the December 2008 unique visitors numbered 308 and 1557 in December 2009. Bandwidth usage also quadrupled.



Some Effects of Climate Change on Us

All of us are experiencing change as a result of climate change: higher temperatures, changing landscapes, wildlife at risk, rising seas, increased risk of drought, fire and floods, stronger storms and increased storm damage, more heat-related illness and disease, and economic losses.

The 3 billion poor people around the world will be hardest hit by climate change. The poor are more dependent on natural resources and have less of an ability to adapt to a changing climate. Diseases, declining crop yields and natural disasters are just a few of the impacts of climate change that could devastate the world's most vulnerable communities.

The world's poorest are also the least responsible for climate change: the world's least developed countries contribute only 10 percent of annual global carbon dioxide emissions.

Day of Prayer & Reflection Against Human Trafficking Celebrated

The Carmelite NGO's sponsorship of a Day of Prayer for Human Trafficking on December 10, 2009 was widely celebrated in many parts of the world.

Salpointe Catholic High School (Tucson) celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with special recognition for those victims of crossing the desert and for victims of torture. Among items on the Marian Altar was a water jar used by a Tomasa Santiago-Lopez who was found dead in the desert on June 9, 2009. She was attempting to cross the desert from Mexico. The students also presented a paper chain containing names of victims of torture. (Photo by Claire Danielson - Salpointe Catholic High School Class of 2012)



when others lack necessities... If someone who has the riches of this world sees his brother in need and closes his heart to him, how does the love of God abide in him?... For what has been given in common for the use of all, you have arrogated to yourself. The world is given to all, and not only to the rich."

Pope Paul VI's words are powerful in influencing our input of the political and economic choices that are being developed to mitigate climate change. His words provide sobering considerations when we discuss the role of multinational corporations, global security and poverty in the political and economic choices before the global community.

Pope Paul VI continues, "It is unfortunate that on these new conditions of society a system has been constructed which considers profit as the key motive for economic progress, competition as the supreme law of economics, and private ownership of the means of production as an absolute right that has no limits and carries no corresponding social obligation. This unchecked liberalism leads to dictatorship rightly denounced by Pius XI as producing *the international imperialism of money*. One cannot condemn such abuses too strongly by solemnly recalling once again that the economy is at the service of humankind."

In his 2009 encyclical *Caritas In Veritate*, Pope Benedict XVI writes; "The Church's social doctrine has always maintained that justice must be applied to every phase of economic activity, because this is always concerned with human needs. Locating resources, financing, production, consumption and all the other phases in the economic cycle inevitably have moral implications. Thus every economic decision has a moral consequence... In the global era, economic activity cannot prescind from gratuitousness, which fosters and disseminates solidarity and responsibility for justice and the common good among the different economic players... The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole."

Climate change will have severe effects on all, but especially on the poor in developing countries. Climate protection is an important contribution to reduce poverty. Climate and development policy are inseparable.

We cannot be satisfied with only educating ourselves about climate change. Guided by scientific, economic and cultural knowledge and the teachings of our Church it is everyone's responsibility to participate in developing the political and economic policies respective to climate change of each one's own country. Not to participate is to turn away from the gospel mandate to love one's neighbor.

Carmelite NGO Coordinating Team

Jane Remson, O. Carm.
Main Representative

Joseph Chalmers, O. Carm.
Carmelite General Council

Míceál O'Neill, O. Carm.
Spirituality Reflection Team

Hariawan Adji, O. Carm.
Asian Region

Helen Aricaya Ojario, O. Carm.
North American Region

Norbert Fokisa, O. Carm.
African Region

Anna Marie Reverand, O. Carm.
Central America and the
Caribbean Region

Arie Kuil, O. Carm.
European Union Region

Gilbert Sabado, O. Carm.
International Commission for
Justice, Peace & the Integrity of
Creation

William J. Harry, O. Carm.
Communications

Committees

North America Climate Change
Blaise Fernando, O. Carm.

Child Soldiers
Chelo Dhebby, O. Carm.

Spirituality Reflection Team
Míceál O'Neill, O. Carm.
Barbara Breaud, O. Carm.
Camille Anne Campbell, O. Carm.
Alexander Vella, O. Carm.
Craig Morrison, O. Carm.
Dionysius Kosasih, O. Carm.
Bartholomew de Rouen, O. Carm.
Kees Waijman, O. Carm.
Christopher O'Donnell, O. Carm.

Carmelite NGO Main Office:

1725 General Taylor Street
New Orleans, LA 70115 USA
Tel: (+01) 504.458.3029
Fax: (+01) 504. 864.7438
jremson@carmelitengo.org

New York Office:

211 East 43rd Street - Suite 708
New York, NY 10017 USA
Tel: (+01) 646.416.4690
Fax: (+01) 212.682.8013
hojario@carmelitengo.org
carmelitengo.org