

Update  
October 1, 2008

Dear Colleagues:

We pray that you are enjoying the changing of the season from summer to fall. Here in Washington, the first signs of fall are upon us with leaves just beginning to turn and temperatures beginning to cool.

This brief note is to share three items:

- **World Tourism Day:** The Holy Father continues to make environmental justice and stewardship a central theme of his pontificate. This time, he encourages tourists to demonstrate respect for local cultures and a concern the environment when they travel. A Zenit article about his message can be found [here](#). When the Vatican posts an English translation of Benedict's message, we'll be sure to post it on the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change website.
- **Family Perspectives Journal:** Family Life Ministers will find the theme of the fall issue of [Family Perspectives Journal](#) dedicated to environmental stewardship. Articles include one by Sr. Leanne Jablonski who shares her scientific knowledge about climate change and blends in a spirituality of creation. Another is by Coalition director, Dan Misleh, who shares his own environmental challenges as well as Church teaching on climate change and the environment. Many, many other family life ministers and Journal readers offer ideas and best practices for how they're caring for creation.
- **Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, 2009:** If you have never attended a Catholic Social Ministry Gathering, we encourage you to do so. The upcoming meeting will be in Washington, DC from February 22-25, 2009. It is a wonderful celebration of the social mission of the Church and includes over 600 social ministry leaders from around the country, top-notch plenary speeches, great issue workshops and a trip to Capitol Hill to advocate on behalf of the lost and the forgotten of our world. Information about the meeting will soon be posted at the [USCCB website](#). In the meantime, planners are seeking input into which domestic and international issue workshops should be presented. To complete a very brief survey, click [here](#).

Finally, we want to remind you that plans are well underway for the Easter Season launch of *A Catholic Climate Covenant: The St. Francis Pledge to Protect Creation and the Poor*. As the initiative unfolds, we will be sending you regular updates and seeking your assistance in promoting this important and exciting endeavor.