February 17, 2009

Dan Misleh, Director
The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change
5727 Lockwood Road
Cheverly, Maryland 20785

Dear Dan,

Scientific evidence and public discourse have converged in making climate change both an urgent practical concern and a moral imperative for Catholics in the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux.

Low-lying coastal Louisiana already faces tremendous land loss and the concomitant threats to safety due to subsidence and erosion. We have long advocated for better stewardship of our coastal resources and urgent action to restore our wetlands and barrier islands. The specter of sea level rise and worsening hurricanes resulting from climate change only adds to our concerns, especially for the poorest people of our diocese who are the most vulnerable.

Therefore, the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux endorses A Catholic Climate Covenant: the St. Francis Pledge to Protect Creation and the Poor. Our diocese agrees to:

PRAY and reflect on the duty to care for God’s creation and protect the poor and vulnerable;

LEARN about and educate others on both the reality of climate change and its moral dimensions;

ASSESS our participation—as individuals and organizations—in contributing to climate change (i.e. consumption and conservation);

ACT to change our choices and behaviors contributing to climate change and;

ADVOCATE Catholic principles and priorities in climate change discussions and decisions, especially as they impact the poor and vulnerable.

We look forward to working with the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change in implementing the St. Francis Pledge.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Sam G. Jacobs
Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux