



The Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment

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Dear Faith Leader,

We are the Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment (OCICE). Founded in 1996, OCICE consists of representatives from a variety of environmental and faith-based communities who share common concerns regarding the state of the Earth.

You are receiving this letter because life on Earth is in trouble. Every day there is increasingly disturbing news from the scientific community that tells us humankind has placed Creation on a dangerous precipice. The destruction of habitat around the world threatening the Earth's ability to maintain a healthy diversity of plants and creatures, the despoiling of air, soil and water, and the looming consequences of global warming are presenting urgent challenges to us all.

OCICE believes these daunting challenges can best be met through the steadfast resolve, shared responsibility, and actions of people of faith. People who believe in a higher being can no longer stand aside while a great immorality is occurring during their lifetimes. The environmental crisis is reaching an epic turning point that threatens to not only destroy beautiful places, fauna and flora, but potentially the lives of millions of innocent people today and in future generations.

OCICE has devised a way for all communities of faith to stand strong for Creation and the Creator. Attached to this letter is a document entitled the Creation Protection Agreement. In the agreement are simple acknowledgements regarding the state of the Earth and humankind's role in bringing harm to it, as well as simple resolutions that you and your faith community are asked to commit to.

The Creation Protection Agreement is designed to demonstrate to the rest of our society and the world, that the faith communities of Orange County are united in bringing the environmental crisis under control. In addition to the words committing your faith community to a new paradigm in how human beings relate to the planet, OCICE can help provide the tools to bring about change in your house of worship and faith community.

We ask that you to read the agreement with faithful attention. If you are in agreement with its basic tenets, we ask you to sign it. Then, we humbly request that you visit our resource site at <http://www.ocice.org/creationcare>. There, you will find information and links on real-world solutions such as "zero waste" recycling programs, as well as suggestions from various faith leaders on finding environmental inspiration and instruction from specific faith traditions.

Now is the time for all houses of worship and faith communities to be leading lights in protecting and preserving all life on Earth. We hope you will join us in this mission.

Continued On Reverse.



To learn more about how you can preserve and protect Creation, we invite you to attend the ***11th Annual Caring for Creation Conference*** on **Saturday, October 25, 2008** at St. Mark Presbyterian Church, located at 2200 Joaquin Hills Road, Newport Beach, CA. The conference offers six workshops in two separate sessions, as well as a keynote address by Bill McKibben, director of the Middlebury Fellowship in Environmental Journalism, and the author of 10 books on subjects related to the environment, including *The End of Nature*, the first book for a general audience about global warming, which is now available in more than 20 languages. A former staff writer at *The New Yorker*, his work appears in *Harpers*, *the New York Review of Books*, *the National Geographic*, *the Atlantic Monthly*, *Orion*, *Outside*, and a wide range of other national and international publications.

We hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

The OCICE Board of Directors

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