Global Climate Change: A Catholic Response Study Guide APPENDIX ONE

Shared Christian Praxis

Many facilitators/leaders are often exasperated by the common assumption among their students or small group participants that discussion of ethics or religion is no more than a sharing of opinion or personal taste. Or in other words, that the attempt to establish truth criteria is an affront to their private sensibilities. *Shared Christian Praxis* provides a practical method that will enable students or groups members to share their opinions and ideas in a manner that not only exposes them to truth criteria, but also challenges their opinions, ideas and presuppositions.

Two key questions are: Why do we do what we do? What are our hopes in doing it? In trying to address these, critical reflection aims to achieve three things: (1) Evaluate the present, noticing the obvious, and develop a critique of it; (2) Uncover the past in the present, and discover how the past influences the present (i.e., discover the personal and social genesis of our present action); and (3) Creatively imagine and envision the future.

Shared Christian praxis is action determined after reflecting on one's understanding of what scripture and Catholic social teaching have to say about an issue or concern. "Praxis" means to take action and influence a specific issue. This reflection/action process is most beneficial when carried out in a small group.

Shared Christian praxis has six elements:

- (1) Focus attention on a specific issue.
- (2) Help participants express their life experiences related to the issue.
- (3) Engage participants in an intuitive and analytical reflection on the issue;
- (4) Break open God's Word in scripture and Catholic Social Teaching so they can find out what God is saying to them about the issue.
- (5) Reflect on what God is saying to us about the issue or what God is calling us to do.
- (6) Encourage participants to decide what they will do to respond to God: as individuals, with friends or family, and with the wider community.

Give this approach a try. You will find that the praxis of reflection/action will:

- -- Make sacred Scripture come alive for people in their daily lives.
- -- Show participants how to claim Catholic Social Teaching as their own.
- -- Present a way to bring forth God's Kingdom on earth.

Global Climate Change: A Catholic Response Study Guide APPENDIX TWO Additional Web Resources

Religious and Moral Perspective & Action

Climate Change: A Moral Problem http://www.ncrlc.com/...

Catholic Coalition on Climate Change www.catholicsandclimatechange.org

Catholic Climate Covenant www.catholicsandclimatechange.org/pdf/Covenant_flyer.pdf

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/ejp/climate/

Interfaith Climate Change Network http://protectingcreation.org/

The Regeneration Project http://www.theregenerationproject.org/

Cool Congregations http://www.coolcongregations.com/

Science

The Climate Institute http://www.climate.org/climate_main.shtml

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change http://www.ipcc.ch/

National Academy of Science (search for "climate change") http://www.nationalacademies.org/

U.S. Climate Change Science Program http://www.climatescience.gov/

Science & Action

Pew Center on Global Climate Change http://www.pewclimate.org/

Environmental Defense http://fightglobalwarming.com/

Union of Concerned Scientists http://www.ucsusa.org/global_warming/

U.S. Climate Action Network http://usclimatenetwork.org/

Global Climate Change: A Catholic Response **Evaluation Form**

Please check the boxes that reflect your experience. Your feedback is much appreciated and will improve this study guide.

Please check one box for each statement. Add specific comments below.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
	1	2	3	4	5
Overall, I found this curriculum useful					
I will be able to apply what I learned.					
The instructions for carrying out the activities were easy to follow.					
The science information was helpful.					
Explaining Catholic social teaching was good.					
Suggestion(s) I have for improving the curriculum are					
That which I found most useful was					
I believe my faith tradition calls me to the following specific action					
Other comments I have regarding Global Climate Change: A Catholic Response					

Please return this form to: CRL, Mail # 4080, 2115 Summit Ave, St. Paul, MN 55105 /info@catholicrurallife.org