

# **Meeting the Challenge of the Environmental Encyclical: How High School Religion and Science Teachers Can Rise to the Occasion?**

Are you interested in meeting other like-minded colleagues to explore how you can harness your creativity and collective power and be a more effective agent of transformation within your school and beyond?

If so, you are invited to a discussion and lunch at St. Camillus Church. Anticipating Pope Francis' environmental encyclical, the Care for Creation Committee of the Archdiocese of Washington and Catholic Climate Covenant wish to explore with you ways to galvanize young people in support of the climate justice by integrating faith and environmental science. Together we can empower our young people to be visionary agents of change who care for Creation and those most vulnerable to environmental harm: the poorest among us.

**When: Saturday, February 7, 2015 9:30AM - 2PM**

**Where: St. Camillus Church, Camilla Room**

1600 St. Camillus Dr. Silver Spring, MD 20903

To see the facility

map: [http://www.stcamilluschurch.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=165&Itemid=274](http://www.stcamilluschurch.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=165&Itemid=274)

Fair-trade coffee and light-lunch will be served. **Please, register by emailing Jan Steeger at [jan.steeger@bmhs.org](mailto:jan.steeger@bmhs.org) no later than January 30.** A vegetarian fare will be offered.

## **Agenda:**

Fair-trade coffee and informal conversations

- ❖ A presentation by **Danny Richter**: *“Expectations for the Pope's Encyclical: an Insider's Perspective,”* followed by Q&A.

Dr. Danny Richter earned his Ph.D. in oceanography from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego. He is currently the Legislative and Science Director for Citizens' Climate Lobby, and was one of 91 people invited to attend the recent conference at the Vatican in preparation for the encyclical.

- ❖ A presentation by **Bill Dinges**: “*Catholics and Creation: Why We Should Care?*” followed by Q&A.

Bill Dinges is a Professor of Religious Studies and Area Director of the Religion and Culture Program in the School of Theology and Religious Studies at The Catholic University of America. He teaches a course on Religion and Ecology, is a member of the Care for Creation Committee of the Archdiocese of Washington, and of the Eco-Ministry group at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Silver Spring, MD.

- ❖ Small group discussions, lunch and presentation by a teacher-student teams from DeMatha and Bishop McNamara High Schools
- ❖ General comments by a representative of the Office of Superintendent of Catholic Schools
- ❖ Focus questions in the small groups: What is your school doing? What initiatives or efforts you’d like to have your school to be engaged in? What resources you’d need to achieve these goals?
- ❖ Closing prayer