Pray and Commit: The Catholic Climate Covenant offers the St. Francis Pledge, which is a good way to pray for the climate and also to pledge your commitment to care for it:

To Protect and Heal God’s Creation
We have come to renew our covenant with God and with one another in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

We have come to help protect God’s creation.

We have come as followers of Jesus to commit ourselves anew to one another and to heal injustice and poverty.

We have come to stand together against all threats to life.

We have come to discover some new beauty every day in God’s creation: the sunrise and sunset, birds, flowers and trees, rainbows in the sky, the stars, and the many forms of life in the forest.

We have come to listen to the “music of the universe” - water flowing over rocks, the wind, trees bending in the wind, raindrops pattering the roof.

We will remember always that God speaks to us through the beauty of his creation, and we will try our best to answer God’s call to reverence all that he has created.

Dialogue and Learn: Create spaces for dialogue and learning more about the environment and climate change individually and collectively in your communities. You could possibly form study groups about the effects of climate change. There are many resources out there to help you do this.

*As stated in the resolution, consider inviting those most affected by environmental destruction into some of your dialogues. For instance:

1. Utilize the Columban study and action guide on Laudato Si’.
2. USCCB offers this backgrounder resource which might be a good starting point for beginning the conversation and providing some points for deeper research.
3. Watch the film Merchants of Doubt which is a fascinating look at how corporations and politics have muddied the conversations around climate, thus causing “confusion” in the US public sphere.
4. Watch the film Renewal which has stories of religious persons active across the U.S. in caring for creation.

Assess: Assess your individual, community and/or parish carbon footprint.

Individual footprint calculators: here and here
Community/Parish footprint: The Catholic Climate Covenant will help you create a team to do this.

Personal and Community Change: It is important that you, your community, and parish act on behalf of the environment and changing the ill effects of climate change.

1. Create a community garden, compost, and buy as local food/goods as possible.
2. Create a substantial re-use and recycling program in your community houses, schools, etc.
3. Walk, bike or use public transportation. If a car is needed, use a vegetable oil powered, electric, or hybrid vehicle.
4. Go vegetarian or vegan. Initiate a process by committing to eating no meat once a week, once a
month, or during religious seasons such as Advent or Lent.
5. Use more videoconferencing of meetings and less flights.
6. Create a carbon-offset policy especially for any flights taken. Sample policy and calculator
7. Create a creation covenant. Sample Columban covenant here

**Buildings and Investments:** The resolution calls for significant increase in green energy and significant decrease and ultimately “replacing without delay” (Laudato Si’) our use of and profiting from fossil fuels in our buildings and investments.

1. Shift to solar, wind or geothermal energy in your buildings. Interfaith Power and Light can help.
2. Shift your financial investments to green energy companies and away from fossil fuels (coal, oil, natural gas). Along with Dayton University (Marianist), see who else is divesting. In limited circumstances, you might invest the minimal amount necessary in some companies to try shareholder advocacy for a specified period of time.

**Advocate:** Local, state, national, and international government bodies need to hear from you regarding cherishing all of creation.

2. The CMSM J/P Alert has and will continue to provide advocacy opportunities.
3. Local city/county advocacy is often the best way to model and initiate larger transformation.

**Share your Stories:** To create ripple effects and the illumination of God’s grace, it’s important to share your stories of cherishing all of creation.

1. Please share within your religious community as well as your ministries.
2. Please share with CMSM so we can offer it to the broader religious network in the U.S. and the advocacy organizations in DC. Send to Eli McCarthy emccarthy@cmsm.org

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1 For expert advice in the nuances of shifting your money and even creating new mutual funds, contact Frank Morris, former board member of Franciscan Action Network. fm@ecologicaadvisors.us