



**Address carbon emissions now to leave world a better place
April 24, 2016**

It's spring and time to care for creation.

The article "Global jump in temperature in February stuns climate scientists" published on March 15th, highlights the critical need for people to understand where greenhouse gases come from and the need to improve oversight of the facilities which produce them.

Protecting creation is a core value. We long for a healthy and vibrant world that we can pass along to the next generation. Climate change puts that inheritance at risk and methane pollution, along with carbon emissions, is a prime contributor.

Carbon dioxide is the gas most closely associated with greenhouse gases and climate change, though methane is a powerful contributor as well.

Methane pollution is an unnecessary environmental hazard that is over eighty times more potent than carbon dioxide pollution in disrupting our climate. Large amounts of methane gas are released into the atmosphere during the production, storage, processing, transporting, and distribution of natural gas.

Methane pollution not only fuels climate change, it can create smog, trigger asthma attacks, and even contribute to cancer. As a Catholic, I view protection of the environment from methane pollution as a spiritual and moral imperative. Methane and other harmful pollution from the oil and gas sector is an urgent issue, and available technology can reduce this pollution, which is harming communities in Ohio and our planet.

The President recently announced plans to regulate existing oil and gas facilities that cover 90 percent of oil and gas sites. These methane gas targets, by 2025, would reduce methane emissions from oil and gas to 45 percent of 2012 levels. Once reached, these levels will save millions of tons of natural gas each year while helping protect local air quality and reduce one of the most potent threats to the global climate.

Our friends and neighbors living with respiratory problems and communities living near oil and gas development can't afford to wait a year or two for these rules to be written to improve their health. They need swift action now.

With 2015 being the hottest year in recorded history, It is clear that methane is one of the greatest threats to our planet. Unless we work to reduce our emissions and push for swift action, we put all of

Gods creations at risk. By addressing methane emissions, we can begin the critical work of protecting the earth from climate change and ensure that we leave a valuable inheritance to our children.