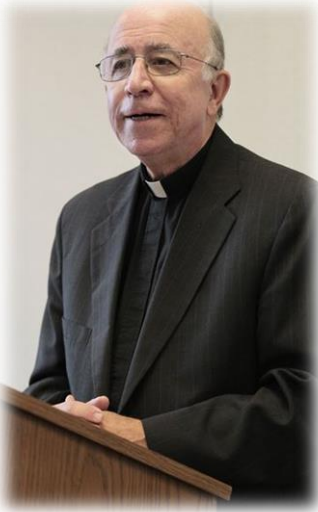




Bio for Jason Cervenech

Jason Cervenech is the Education and Outreach Director for the Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center at The Ohio State University. The diverse outreach portfolio of the center reaches approximately 12,000 individuals annually and includes programs in cutting edge science, science education, history, and the arts. Jason grew up in Rossford and earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from The Ohio State University. He began his career as a high school science teacher where he taught for more than a decade. In 2010, Jason took part in a Fulbright Teacher Exchange in Mumbai, India where he witnessed firsthand the challenges faced by most of the world's population. Jason and his wife have a two-year-old daughter, enjoy hiking, and recently rehabilitated a 1908 house. He serves on the Mayor's Green Team (Columbus), is a board member of Ohio Interfaith Power and Light, and volunteers with Franklin County's Restorative Justice Circles.



Bio for Fr. Charles Ritter

Father Charles Ritter, ordained for the Diocese of Toledo in 1967, is currently a "Senior Status" priest of the Diocese of Toledo, after having served most recently as Parochial Vicar at St. Joseph Parish in Sylvania, Ohio and Dean of the St. Luke Deanery. Fr. Ritter has served in parishes in Findlay, Fremont, Toledo, Leipsic, Bryan and Sylvania, and for many years was involved in the diocese's ministry to seasonal migrant workers. From 1979 to 1989 he was director of the Office of Community Relations for the diocese, the office which coordinated the diocese's social justice ministries. After Bishop Leonard Blair was transferred to the Archdiocese of Hartford, Fr. Ritter served as Diocesan Administrator until the installation of Bishop Daniel Thomas, the current Bishop of Toledo. Fr. Ritter holds both B.A. and M.A. degrees from the Athenaeum of Ohio and a Master of Arts degree in Christian Spirituality from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.



Bio for Justin Kale

Justin Kale has a background in commercial real estate spending 15 years with Hines in a 1.4M SF Class-A high-rise office tower and parking structure. There he delivered successful results with the facility engineering team. He established skills in operations of boilers, chillers and the energy management system, conducted preventive maintenance and managed the water treatment process. He then spent four years in an engineering leadership role. In that capacity he strengthened his knowledge in the energy industry leading efforts for energy procurement, management and efficiency. Justin spent four years with Vermont Energy Investment Corporation as an Energy Consultant in for the AMP-Ohio Efficiency Smart program. He was responsible for reviewing customer projects, performing analysis, conducting technical walk-throughs and providing recommendations for energy efficiency improvements for commercial and industrial customers. In 2015, Justin partnered with Craig Foster to form Energility where they perform high value, low cost energy management services providing commercial businesses with engineered solutions to reduce wasted energy consumption, lower energy spending, provide operations with better control and improve sustainability. Justin holds a Certified Energy Manager (CEM) designation through the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) and American National Standards Institute (ANSI). He also has a Systems Maintenance Technician (SMT) designation through BOMI International.



Bio for Sister Sharon Havelak

Sister Sharon Havelak is a Sister of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio. An artist, educator and long-time peace activist, she became involved in ecological issues through her work with the Earth Charter. She co-chaired Sylvania's Earth Expo in 2007 and the Earth Charter Community Summit in 2008. After the release of the encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, in June 2015, she has given presentations, helping others understand the document and apply it to their lives. Sister Sharon currently serves as the coordinator of the Sylvania Franciscan's Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation efforts and is a member of the Toledo Diocesan Taskforce on *Laudato Si'*.



Bio For Fr. Michael Connors

Fr. Michael Connors, CSC, Th.D., is the Director of the John S. Marten Program in Homiletics and Liturgics at the University of Notre Dame. He has edited three books on preaching: *We Preach Christ Crucified*, (2014 Liturgical Press) and *To All the World: Preaching and the New Evangelization*, (2016 Liturgical Press), as well as *What We Have Heard and Seen: Fostering Baptismal Witness in the World*, (2017 from Pickwick/Wipf and Stock). He is a member of the faculty of Theology.



Bio for Matt Jones

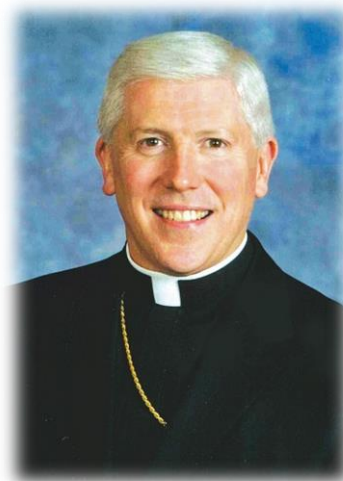
Matt Jones is the Environmental Justice Program Assistant at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C. Prior to working at the USCCB, Matt received his M.A. in religion from Yale Divinity School, where he focused his studies on religion and ecology. These studies built well on his experience working at Shepherd's Corner Ecology Center, an ecological ministry of the Dominican Sisters of Peace in Blacklick, Ohio, where he assisted with educational programming, maple syrup production, gardening, and event coordinating. This vocational path first emerged for Matt as an undergraduate studying environmental engineering at Northwestern University. Through the campus ministry at Northwestern, Matt created and facilitated several "wilderness retreats," which explored the connection between faith and the environment while camping in the outdoors. In his free time, Matt enjoys hiking, reading stories of exploration and survival, and cooking with his wife, Anna.

Bio for Jose Aguto



Jose Aguto leads policy development of the Catholic Climate Covenant, whose mission is to advance the implementation of the Church's Care for God's Creation, [one of the seven themes of Catholic social teaching](#), in collaboration with the US Conference of Catholic Bishops and 15 other [partner organizations](#). A prominent aspect of the Covenant's policy is to inspire meaningful actions on climate change as a moral and non-partisan call. This approach, undertaken when Jose was at the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), led in September 2015, to the "Gibson resolution," the first formal positive statement on climate change by a group of elected Republicans in Congress since 2008. The resolution has led to bipartisan caucuses and legislation which are creating a politically viable foundation for meaningful climate legislation. Jose is on the board of the U.S. Climate Action Network on the Steering Committee of the Green Leadership Trust. Prior to joining FCNL, Jose worked for the National Congress of American Indians, and EPA's American Indian Environmental Office. He is a graduate of Brown University and Villanova University School of Law.

Bio for Bishop Daniel E. Thomas



On August 26, 2014, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, named the Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas as the eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Toledo. Bishop Thomas had served as an Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia since his Episcopal Ordination on July 26, 2006. Bishop Thomas was born and raised in Philadelphia, attending Catholic elementary and high schools. He attended Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Pa., where he earned both a Bachelor and Master of Arts degree. He also earned a Licentiate in Sacred Theology (S.T.L.) in 1989 from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. Ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia on May 18, 1985, Bishop Thomas was first assigned as a Parochial Vicar at Saint Joseph Parish in Aston, Pa. In 1990, he was assigned to serve the Holy See as an Official of the

Congregation for Bishops, the Directory of the Roman Curia primarily charged with assisting the Holy Father in the selection of candidates for the episcopacy. While serving 15 years at the Congregation for Bishops, Bishop Thomas also served as an Adjunct Spiritual Director at the Pontifical North American College Seminary in Rome. In 1995, he was named Chaplain to His Holiness (Monsignor), and in 2005, was named a Prelate of Honor, both by Pope John Paul II. In October of the same year, Bishop Thomas returned to Pennsylvania and was appointed Pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Strafford. In 2006, he was ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia, to assist the Archbishop with pastoral responsibilities and administrative duties. The Installation of Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas as Bishop of Toledo took place on the first Memorial of Pope Saint John Paul II at Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral on October 22, 2014. In addition to his duties with the Diocese of Toledo, Bishop Thomas remains a member of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, the Committee on Divine Worship and the Task Force Commission on Certification and Accreditation, in addition to serving as a Consultor to the USCCB's Pro-Life Committee. He is also a member of the National Advisory Council for the Saint John Vianney Center in Downingtown, Pa., as well as the Episcopal Advisory Board for the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors, the Ohio Council of Churches Board of Directors and The Athenaeum of Ohio – Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West Board of Directors.