

**Fwd: E-Update: Transgender Policy, 'green' popes, USCCB on immigration**

1 message

**Andy Birkey** <andy.birkey@gmail.com>  
To: Andy Birkey <andy.birkey@gmail.com>

Sun, Nov 23, 2014 at 4:59 PM

**In this Issue...**

- [Latest draft of Transgender Policy ignores your concerns](#)
- [The popes went 'green' -- have you?](#)
- [Reminder: CCHD Collection this Weekend](#)
- [Important federal updates from the USCCB](#)

**Latest draft of Transgender Policy ignores your concerns**

Thousands of you have voiced your opposition to the proposed Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Transgender Policy since September. Thank you! Following is an update on the Policy and *another request*.



At their October 1 workshop, the MSHSL board took testimony from a number of concerned stakeholder organizations and associations that opposed the then-current draft of the proposed Transgender Policy, and committed to taking your concerns into consideration. Unfortunately, the most recent (November 6) draft of the MSHSL Policy has made little progress in addressing its gravest issues.

All students should be allowed to participate in extracurricular athletic programs but must do so in a way that *does not* jeopardize their personal privacy rights, safety, or well-being, and in a way that *does not* jeopardize the values and institutional integrity of MSHSL member schools.

The most recent Policy draft (like all prior versions) could force

November 21,  
2014**Follow**[Sign up for action alerts](#)**Upcoming Events**

[USCCB CARBON STANDARDS WEBINAR](#),  
Online, 11/21  
(1:00 p.m. CST)

[CLOSING MASS FOR THE "YEAR OF MARRIAGE,"](#)  
Crookston,  
11/22

[MARCH FOR LIFE 2015](#),  
Washington,  
D.C., 1/20

**Contact**

schools to comply with its mandates without explicit accommodations for those schools or students who object--yet, as the MSHSL admitted in a November 17 email to state athletic directors, this Policy is NOT required by state or federal law.

Read more about the problems that remain with both the MSHSL Policy itself and the process in which it is being developed. Then, sign or share our petition to make your voice heard! [CLICK HERE](#)

[Top](#)

## The popes went 'green' -- have you?



**"The deterioration of nature is... closely connected to the culture that shapes human coexistence: when 'human ecology' is respected within society, environmental ecology also benefits."**

- Pope Benedict XVI

\*\*\*\*

Pope Francis has made environmental stewardship one of the key themes of his pontificate, so much so that his forthcoming encyclical, expected spring 2015, will focus on the environment and our responsibilities as good stewards of creation.

Since the beginning of his pontificate, Pope Francis has stressed the urgent need for a response to the present ecological crises, and has described why the God-given mandate to "subdue" the earth does not mean to exploit it, but instead to be a steward of the earth and its resources, ensuring that they create an environment in which all persons can flourish.

The Pope is building on the critical work of his predecessor, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, nicknamed the '[green pope](#)', highlighting the fact that meeting the ecological challenges of today requires not just technical or economic solutions, but a renewed emphasis on ethics and a proper understanding of the human person and his or her relationship to the created order.

This is not just talk. [Vatican City has become the world's first carbon neutral state](#) by, among other things, installing 2400 solar panels on Vatican buildings.

Many Catholic parishes in the United States have done similar things to reduce or eliminate their carbon footprint.

Your parish can take this first "step" too!

## your lawmakers



## Blog Posts and Articles

[Ave Maria wins injunction, but why does government continue to browbeat nonprofits in HHS cases?](#)

[Educational 'options' don't always equal 'choice'; it's time for both](#)

["Fake church" desires to supplant real religion, dictate beliefs, impose fines on non-"believers"](#)

[Transgender persons, human dignity and our response](#)

**Become an advocate for human dignity and the common good!**

[Learn how](#)

**ENERGY STAR** provides an energy-saving Action Workbook for church congregations.

[CLICK HERE](#) to check out their resources today.

[Top](#)

## Reminder: CCHD Collection this Weekend

The annual collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is this weekend in most dioceses throughout the U.S. Remind your parish that the collection will help our anti-poverty efforts in Minnesota directly: 25% of this collection stays in our dioceses to help with our local poverty reduction programs, and more funds may also return to our Minnesota communities through national grants.



Read more about the special collection and view a video that profiles some of the people and programs that have been positively impacted by CCHD funds, [CLICK HERE](#).

[Top](#)

## Important federal updates from the USCCB



**UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF  
CATHOLIC BISHOPS**

[USCCB Migration Chairman Welcomes Obama Administration Announcement of Relief for Immigrant Families, USCCB President Cites Urgent Pastoral Need for More Humane View of Immigrants](#)

[Cardinal O'Malley, Archbishop Lori Urge Congress to Include Abortion Non-discrimination Act in Funding Legislation](#)

[Archbishop Wenski, Bishop Cantu Urge Congress to Protect Programs that Help the Poor and Vulnerable](#)

[Pope Francis Announces 2015 Visit to Philadelphia for World Meeting of Families; USCCB President Says Papal Visit will be Joyful Moment](#)

[Top](#)



Minnesota Catholic Conference  
475 University Avenue West St. Paul, MN 55103  
[www.mncc.org](http://www.mncc.org) / [info@mncc.org](mailto:info@mncc.org)

Copyright © 2008-2013

You are currently subscribed to a mailing list of Minnesota Catholic Conference. If you wish to unsubscribe, please click [here](#).

Powered by [voterVOICE](#) 

--

Andy Birkey  
Executive Editor  
TheColu.mn  
Phone: [612-721-8617](tel:612-721-8617)  
Cell: [612-387-5460](tel:612-387-5460)

--

Andy Birkey  
Executive Editor  
TheColu.mn  
Phone: [612-721-8617](tel:612-721-8617)  
Cell: [612-387-5460](tel:612-387-5460)