

# TAU AUGUST 2021

The Province of the Pacific, Third Order Society of St Francis



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Website - [tssf.org.nz](https://tssf.org.nz) Please check the website regularly for updated Intercession and Address lists.

Please send any articles that would interest us about your area events or other Franciscan happenings in time for the next issue to

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**The next Tau is due out at the end of November 2021 for Christmas.**

Please send me your stories, etc by Friday 26th November.

## From the Minister Provincial...

Franciscan greetings to everyone, that is, peace and blessing to you all, especially during this current lockdown.

I would like to firstly take the opportunity to thank all those who hold an “office” in tssf for their work and contributions to the life and community of tssf in this Pacific province. Many hours of work are given to being chaplains, novice counselors, conveners, treasurer, secretary, communications, formation, lifelong learning and forgive me if I have left anyone out. Please during this lockdown let’s pray together for all these people as part of our daily office as a means of blessing for them.

Re Chapter and Convocation at the end of September, we are still hoping that these events will go ahead. There is over 5 weeks to go and we will keep you informed closer to the time.

Another prayer request while many of us have more time to pray, for the global tssf, that in trying to rewrite our rules closer aligned with the principles we would find a deeper journey on the Franciscan way. Also to pray for the emerging plan for lifelong learning and the strengthening of our small area groups so that we love one another more and live out our Franciscan call practically alongside being contemplatives.

In the meantime stay safe, watch out for ways of service in these different times and keep in touch with one another as best you can. I will leave you with a quote from John O’Donohue on equilibrium,

Like the joy of the sea coming home to shore  
May the relief of laughter rinse through your soul

As the wind loves to call things to dance  
May your gravity be lightened by grace

Like the dignity of moonlight restoring the earth  
May your thoughts incline with reverence and respect

May your prayer of listening deepen enough  
To hear in the depths the laughter of God.

Peace

Blair Matheson tssf

## **Convocation 2021**

**Celebrating 800 years of The Third Order Society of St Francis - 1221 – 2021**

**You can find the Registration Forms on our website -**

**[https://www.tssf.org.nz/files/2021\\_Convocation\\_Registration.pdf](https://www.tssf.org.nz/files/2021_Convocation_Registration.pdf)**

**Or contact Janice Thorne tssf at [janicegthorne@gmail.com](mailto:janicegthorne@gmail.com) or phone 0278236370.**

**Where – El Rancho in Waikanae**

**When – Thursday September 30 – Sunday October 3**

**Cost: Full accommodation - \$305.00**

**Live out with lunch & dinner provided - \$165.00**

There is still time to register for Convocation being held in Waikanae from September 30 to October 3. Everything is on track for a great time together - wonderful speakers, plenty of time for discussion and reflection, time to spend together to renew old friendships and meet new people, time together with our TSSF family. So far more than 50 people are planning to be there.

We're needing payment by the first week of September, and there is still money available to assist anyone finding things a bit tight at the moment.

(Contact the Treasurer - [pip.colgan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pip.colgan@xtra.co.nz))

Yes, there is an elephant in the room - but we're holding our breath and hoping this will be able to go ahead.

Contact your Area Chaplain or Pip Colgan (National Treasurer).

## **Helen Julian SSF**

Dear Sisters and Brothers, We have just heard the sad news that Helen Julian died unexpectedly during Saturday night while staying with her Aunt Margaret at Ascot in Berkshire. Her aunt found her dead on the morning of Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>. Helen had become more unwell while with her aunt so had stayed a few days longer than planned. Although Helen Julian was seriously ill with cancer, her death at this time was unexpected, so there will need to be a post-mortem. It will therefore be some time before funeral arrangements can be made, and further details will be published in due course.

As you remember Helen Julian in prayer, please also pray for her sister Janet and her Aunt Margaret in this the family's second bereavement, following the death of Helen's mother early last year.

May the Lord give us Peace,

Sue

## Joint Formation Day

The Juniper Forest: North (Auckland) tssf group, enjoyed a Formation day with the Secular Franciscan Order on Saturday 14th August 2021.

This was something of a miracle as our hosting of the event was set for last year, became postponed due to Covid and was rescheduled to this month, three days prior to our current lockdown! An unusual complication was that our usual meeting place was covered in shrink wrap. With four weeks to go we managed to find an alternate welcoming venue at St Barnabas, Anglican Church, in Mt Eden.

We celebrated the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Franciscan Third Orders with a cake and candles.

Anne Scott as convenor and her small planning group were originally inspired by an article by Dr Mary Betz, who agreed to speak at our event. Mary's background includes study on Ecology and Theology and much more. She is a member of the Catholic Environment and Sustainability Committee of the Auckland Justice and Peace Commission. Mary's article is found in the book *Listening to the People of the Land - Christianity, Colonisation and the Path to Redemption*, edited by Susan Healy. 2019 Pax Christi. Another book noted as helpful was *Care for Creation: a Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth* by Ilia Delio

Our theme was *"In this Covid era what is God calling us to be and do as Franciscans in the context of Aotearoa, N.Z. (Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation)?"* We planned to "look backwards in order to move forwards".

Prior to cutting the celebration cake, Alison Molloy spoke on the beginnings of the Third Order SSF here in New Zealand, and Brother Dominic Anderton of the Secular Franciscan Order, on the beginnings of their Order. Margaret Bedgood guided us through the day as facilitator.

Pip Colgan (TSSF) and Mary Betz were our presenters. Mary offered us up to date facts on our current crises (eg Carbon Emissions) and likely outcomes on our environment and climate, if we do not change our lifestyles, as well as wonderful images and inspiring quotes for our journey.

Pip led us in small group reflections on looking back at The Third Order Franciscan Rule of 1221. Our task was to identify the Core Values present in that Rule and the context of the time, and later to identify the similarities or differences in values and context today. We then brainstormed the particular

issues here and now which face us in Aotearoa, under headings of Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation.

We began to imagine how we as the Third Order need to be focusing our energy to be, and to do looking ahead! This now is the challenge.

We hope to put together some of the valuable material from the day, for our further reflection, action, and maybe for the next edition of Tau?



Margaret Bedgood  
tssf Chris Barfoot  
tssf and Brother  
Dominic lighting  
candles on the  
800th Anniversary  
cake



Anne Scott tssf and  
Brother Dominic sfo

Janet Meads tssf- organiser of  
amazing food and hospitality



Thanks to  
Anne Scott  
convenor of  
day



## Quiet Day at St George's, Gate Pa.

On a stormy winters day in mid-July the Te Aroha Whanau were led by Andrew McKean for a quiet day.

The theme was "A Heart for Creation: Loving the birds and the flowers"



We gathered in a warm church after a welcome cuppa and Andrew shared his topic reminding us to slow down and reflect with careful attention and reflection. Andrew spoke of the Third Note, Joy, from our principles.

Andrew reminded us that Tertiaries rejoicing in the Lord always, show in our lives the grace and beauty of divine joy. We remember that we follow the Son of Man, who came eating and drinking, who loved the birds and the flowers, who blessed little children, who was a friend to tax collectors and sinners and who sat at the tables of both rich and the poor. We delight in fun and laughter, rejoicing in God's world, it's beauty and its living creatures, calling nothing common or unclean. We mix freely with all people, ready to bind up the broken-hearted and to bring joy into the lives of others. We carry within us an inner peace and happiness, others may perceive, if they do not know it's source.

With the storm raging outside we stayed warm and dry and used large photographs as our focus for reflection. The photos were stunning close-up photos of flowers, insects and birds. Andrew suggested we reflect on these finding and listening what really spoke to us as we gazed on the image chosen.

Time seemed to go very quickly, and our group moved to the kitchen for a shared lunch where Andrew had another surprise for us. A platter of beautiful French cheeses and Italian Prosciutto was prepared by Andrew who also poured a glass of red wine for each of us, and we were challenged to eat slowly, mindfully and carefully, fully savouring the flavours and textures of the beautiful food, joy indeed!





Andrew and Ava at start of Quiet Day

Over a shared lunch we discussed the photo we had each chosen and a little about why we chose it.

We met for Eucharist in St George's side chapel and Andrew read an alternative creation story. This generated much positive comment afterwards.

The storm abated by the time we prepared to leave, and we were all so grateful for the day we spent together in quiet reflection and for Andrew's leadership.

"Christianity preaches the infinite worth of that which is seemingly worthless and the infinite worthlessness of that which is seemingly so valued."

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

## St Clare's Day - August 11<sup>th</sup>

How did you celebrate St Clare's Day? Nelson, Juniper Forest (Auckland), and the Taranaki Group of King's Companions share their what they did.

Nelson Area Celebrated St Clare at our meeting on 8 August. We read out some key points of Clare's life and work including the fact that she was canonised within 2 years of her death. The Poor Clare's around the world today number over 20,000 sisters and are in 70 countries. We then shared Eucharist with the readings set down for the 11<sup>th</sup> August.

Blessings

Yvonne McLean

I have a small picture of St. Clare in an ornate gold frame and took it to Church on Wednesday August 11<sup>th</sup> to our Morning Prayer service.

I put her picture on the altar.

The Priest read a small account of her from "For All the Saints" and we used her collect.

From another book of the Saints I was able to add to the information telling the story how that one Christmas lying in her sickbed; she miraculously viewed the Midnight Mass in the Basilica of San Francesco the far side of Assisi. And so it is that in 1958, she was declared patron of television by Pius XII.

What a wonderful story.

Diane Brown

We had a lovely shared lunch of soup and potato gratin as well as coffee, followed by Eucharist using a chalice from Assisi. Titia and Phil caught up with Dorothy, Val, Ava and Rachel at the Secular/TSSF GATHERING in Palmerston North. In New Plymouth our companions and Novices plus an enquirer shared lunch and Eucharist with a Lectio Divination on readings with a gentle reflection on Clarence and I learned that because of her visions she is the patron saint of vision and Television

Hélène





Above: Three companions Don Russell & Ray missing was Belinda.



Right: Jill sharing snippets on St Clare

## Jesus Leads The Way

Jesus's life on earth was a purely kenotic, downwardly mobile path. . . . Jesus could have been a prince on a throne, holding power, riches, and every kind of privilege. Instead, he denied it. He let it go. . . . He consciously chose a path that assured suffering, humiliation, desolation, and finally death on a cross. In response, God lifted him up and gave him glory.

None of this was an accident or coincidence. Jesus entered as he did, where he did, doing what he did, because God needed us to finally comprehend the truth: God is not a sky king who heads an empire; God is the love that gives itself away for the sake of more love. Jesus could only communicate that point by standing outside the power structures and inviting disciples to join him and discover new life with him on the margins. . . .

In Jesus, God shows us what it looks like to be this vulnerable, humble, and self-giving. In him, we see one who did not run from the things that broke his heart, nor did he first calculate what he could gain from a situation. Jesus sought instead to give away his life, so he and others might flourish as God intends. . . .

From: *The Church Cracked Open* by Stephanie Spellers

## Fruitful meeting with Secular Franciscans

Our Te Aroha Group met this month with the local Secular Franciscans (RC) for a very productive time at St George's Gate Pa. There were just 6 of our newly-formed Te Aroha group of 14, and 4 from their group of about 20. This was because the meeting was an extra one in between planned meetings. Nevertheless it was a very encouraging meeting, and our RC friends were so grateful to be invited to join with us.

We spent the time introducing ourselves with each telling a bit about our reason for being in the Third Order. The RC group has several couples with 8-10 children altogether (none present) which adds a different dimension to their meetings, and their physical area is wider than hours. They usually meet in Matamata while we have begun meeting in Katikati.

It became obvious to us that two branches of the same family would do well to continue meeting and sharing in a common life. It felt so good to discover a common bond with people who up to now were total strangers, and we plan to meet up again in November.

We shared the Daily Obedience with them to end in prayer, and then a shared lunch together.

Brian Hamilton tssf

***Keep a clear eye toward life's end. Do not forget your purpose and destiny as God's creature. What you are in his sight is what you are and nothing more. Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take nothing that you have received...but only what you have given; a full heart enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice, and courage."***



***~ Francis of Assisi***

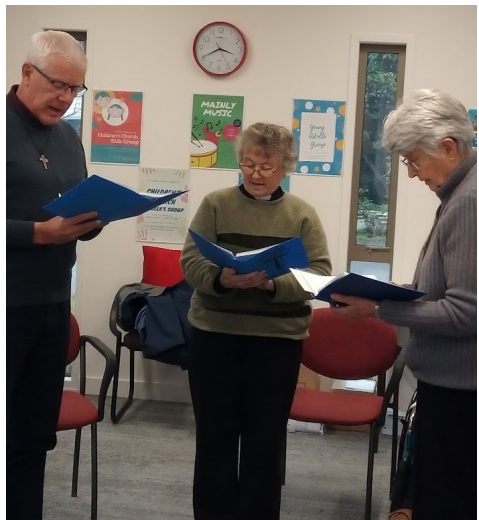
## Southern Area

In the Southern area we combined our normal monthly meeting with Anne Russell-Brighty's novicing and a study reflection on St Clare to mark day (early this year). A couple of photos area attached. The one with four of us in has Anne, her husband Adrian, her novice counsellor (Pam Barrett) and my back (sorry).

Our reflection on St Clare centered on her being the Patron Saint of Television, a fact not always mentioned in Franciscan circles.

In fact Clare of Assisi is the patron saint of televisions and computer screens. An early follower of St. Francis, Clare founded The Order of Poor Ladies, which eventually became known as the Poor Clare's. Late in her life, she fell too ill to attend church, and one day the images and sounds of the entire Mass appeared in full on the wall of her room. This story would have been well-known to Italian native Pope Pius XII, who in 1957 named her the patroness of this new invention—television—that, in his words, “is a wonderful instrument... which can be the source of very great wealth, but also of deep troubles.” This may be why he chose a saint steeped in humility, poverty, and love of God as its patroness. St. Clare is also the patron saint of sore eyes and embroidery, so let us invoke her prayers on our behalf as we learn to meet and work online and perhaps cultivate new hobbies as we shelter in our homes. St. Clare of Assisi, pray for us!

Blessings Ian Lothian



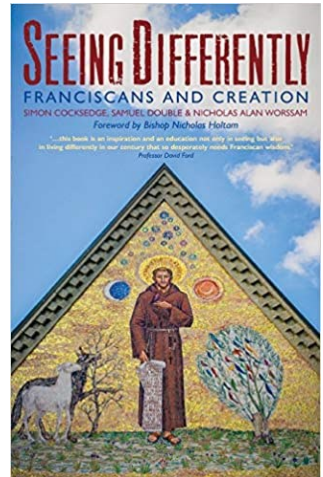
# Seeing Differently, Franciscans and Creation

Written by Br Samuel Double SSF who was Guardian of Hilfield Friary, Br. Nicholas Alan SSF Guardian of Glasshampton Monastery and Simon Cocksedge TSSF and a Parish Priest.

They have collaborated in writing and each have done a section, Francis and Creation, Franciscans and Creation, Franciscans and Creation today. Each chapter offers some questions for reflection so it would be a good study book when groups are separated to read reflect and share via email or zoom.

As many know the Third Order Chapter is looking at several social issues, many that impact not only New Zealand but world wide- such as refugees, Climate change itself and as a pre-requisite for refugee status, Modern slavery, and others like the Military budget, poverty, housing prisons especially concerned with youth. At Convocation they will present 2/3 areas for us to look at and hopefully become change agents for positive results! Obviously if we do not halt the environmental disaster looming we won't have time to make a difference! Hopefully our convocation will not be affected by our latest COVID outbreak. I am looking forward to catching up with TSSF family, sad there is not more of us planning on coming. Obviously if sick or elderly it is a lot harder to make the journey, however the more we gather the stronger we are!

After the chapter we are asked to consider; *which stories of Francis and creation do you find helpful or unhelpful, and why.* One of my favourites is the wolf of Gubbio, especially since recently they found bones of a large wolf buried outside of Gubbio, and because I know of a person who is so attuned to non-aggressive behaviour has safely played with bear, wolf, lion cubs without harm, it is the connection of seeing all creation held in Christ literally our brothers and sisters. After a chapter on Francis and the canticle of Creation we have *How do praise and joy feature in your life, and might this need to change?* Later we have a chapter called Living in Paradise the questions here are: *Where do you feel most strongly the presence of God : in a church, countryside or somewhere else? Do you find God in the people around*



you? If So, how? And How might you practically enter into the service of others and so serve Christ? The final chapter is Relationship and Reconciliation with meaty questions like *What actions might you take in response to the challenge of our moral obligation to repair Gods Kingdom!*

*How could you re-vision and change your life to participate in the ecological conversion demanded by pope Francis? Which places are precious to you and how might you use them differently?* Certainly a book worth exploring so enjoy!

Helene Young tssf - Chaplain for King's Companions

## Understanding Climate Change

### From Juniper Forest: North (Auckland) -

Dr Nicola Hoggard Creegan, currently co-director of New Zealand Christians in Science and Chair of the Board of AROCHA NZ was our visiting speaker. Her presentation included a weaving together of many threads significant to our understanding of climate change and emergency and how we can move forward from here. These included tracing history of our growing understanding of the impact and implications of climate change, the significance of theology in how the church has responded, recognition of how often there are divisions between science and theology, religion and biology, and science and evolution.

Nicola suggested ways in which these disciplines might listen more to each other and how an understanding of human evolution helps when we address the question "what is human nature". Unless we develop our view of nature, seeing ourselves as 'creatures' and part of creation along with other animals, nothing will change. Nicola recommended *Climate: a new story.* by Charles Eisenstein. Some gems from her talk,

"the question now is how can we flourish?"

"Culture like morality is not a veneer, it can't be changed quickly. On the other hand it also goes deep. Change can effect deep changes",

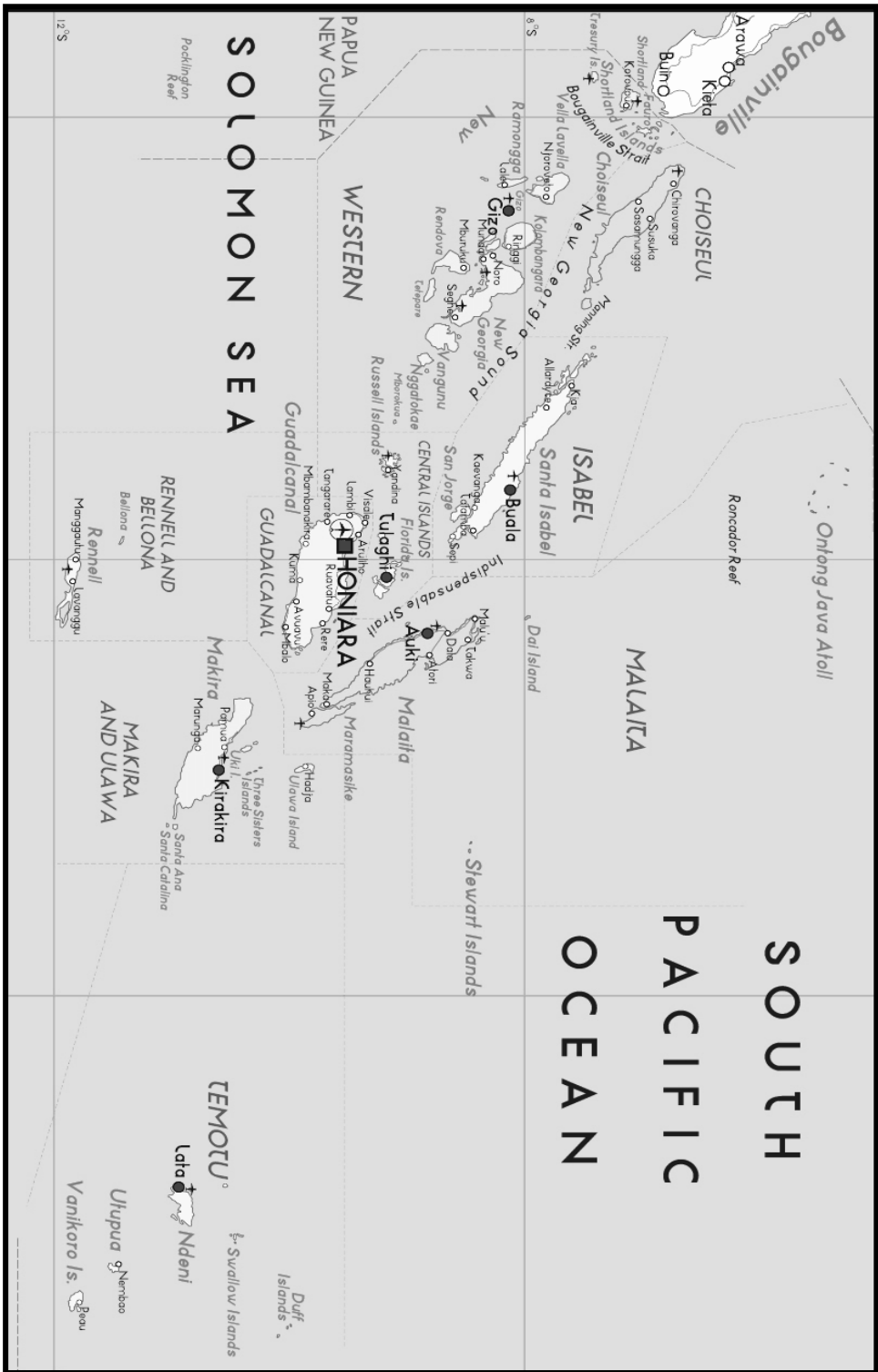
"Nature is not an object to be fixed it is a partner to be respected" (from Faithful Presence). Nicola suggested that our Franciscan Mysticism helps us find answers and can be at the heart of helping us flourish.

We enjoyed scope for interaction both in pairs and small groups and with Nicola.



**DISCLAIMER:** The “boundaries” are guidelines only and for those new to the order or living on a boundary fringe can choose which area they wish to connect with.





## Establishment of a UN Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Climate Change

**Introduction:** The Human Rights Council is the United Nations body responsible for the promotion and protection of all human rights worldwide. It meets in Geneva at least three times a year to discuss thematic human rights issues and country situations that require its attention.

Climate change is a threat to the enjoyment of all human rights, with adverse effects being felt globally. Since 2008, the Council has been addressing the adverse impacts of climate change on human rights through various of its mechanisms and activities. Yet, and despite the urgency of the climate crisis, the Council has failed to address it in a comprehensive way, clarify the legal obligations of the States, or provide effective support to States and affected communities. There is an urgent need for the Council to strengthen its role in tackling climate change, protecting people from its adverse impacts, promoting the respect for and protection of human rights in all climate responses, and ensuring access to justice.

When a specific human rights issue requires an increased level of attention and remedies, the Council can establish various mechanisms called *Special Procedures* (in most cases, the nomination of a UN Special Rapporteur) to report and advise the Council from a thematic or country-specific perspective. Establishing new Special Procedures' mandates allows the Council to address certain topics in a more coherent, consolidated, and sustainable way as well as to act on individual cases and broader structural concerns by sending communications to States and corporations.

To find out more information check out these websites:

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Environment/SREnvironment/Pages/ClimateChange.aspx>

<https://thecvf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/CVF-Presidency-Annoucement-from-Bangladesh-Final.pdf>

<https://www.docdroid.net/Q1a31FF/hrc44-jst-on-climate-short-check-against-delivery-pdf>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SuuqxPljpzXByz8q4Lql9j2RAQmGCO4K/view>

<https://www.ciel.org/news/ministers-of-the-pacific-islands-forum-join-the-growing-chorus-calling-for-a-new-un-special-rapporteur-on-human-rights-and-climate-change/>

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/2010SFClimatchangeaHR.aspx>

<https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/ngo-declaration-on-climate->