

Voters have a collective responsibility to act against climate change

Posted: Tuesday, October 21, 2014 12:00 am

I love Max Stephenson's article on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' ethical concerns related to climate change: respecting human life, acting prudently for public good, prioritizing the poor and vulnerable, and caring for creation ("The bishops and the climate change debate," Oct. 12 commentary).

Last week, three U.S. servicemen were killed during a typhoon in Okinawa. When terrible weather events occur, people try to make sense of the tragedy by asking: Did climate change cause this? A more nuanced question would be: Did climate change affect this typhoon?

According to Kevin Trenberth, climate scientist, "All weather events are affected by climate change because the environment in which they occur is warmer and moister than it used to be."

Catholic or not, it's time for us all to say "mea culpa." Until Congress enacts legislation to lower emissions faster than EPA regulations can, while also providing assistance to the poor and financially trapped fossil fuel industry employees, we are all neglecting our ethical and civic responsibilities.

Repeat after me: Mea culpa, and to atone, I won't vote for climate change deniers or shirkers, and will vote only for candidates who will support national legislation to lower emissions faster than EPA regulations can, at less cost than EPA regulations.

RABBI JUDY WEISS
CITIZENS' CLIMATE LOBBY, BOSTON CHAPTER
BROOKLINE, MASS.

[link](#)