



Press Release

For Immediate Release:

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New Vision Renewable Energy, St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church Honor Pope Francis with the 2013 Ambassador of Light Award

January 8, 2014 - Philippi, WV - New Vision Renewable Energy, in friendship with St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, awarded Pope Francis the 2013 New Vision Ambassador of Light Award for bringing hope and inspiration to the world and for his work towards proper stewardship of the environment with the care of our planet. New Vision's President, Ruston Seaman, met Wednesday night with Father Jim O'Connor and officials at St. Elizabeth's to sign letters to be sent to the Pope explaining the significance of the award. Along with the letters, a pre-assembled New Vision Portable Solar Power Pack & Light will be sent for the Pope's personal use or to be donated to a family in need. The lights are made with coroplast board (known to most as politician signs), LED light strips, 3M™ Solar Mirror Film, a lithium-ion battery and a 10 Watt solar panel. The light is encased in a box/briefcase also made of coroplast boards. Inside the box with the light is a water filtration pouch for families to carry water to their homes. The pouch attaches to a water filter created with from a technology derived from kidney dialysis and removes 99% of all bacteria for safe consumption.

Seaman, with the help of Cody Freeman, a youth trained in the assembly of lights and how to assist first-time light makers, demonstrated to the group at St. Elizabeth's how the solar light and water filtration pouch works. Both spoke about light quality, battery sustainability, and how the products were received in other countries. New Vision is pleased to have worked with St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church on this project and hopes to work with them again in the future. St. Elizabeth's is located in the same town as the New Vision headquarters in the heart of Appalachia.

Pope Francis, formerly of Argentina, is dedicated to helping those living in poverty in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi who had a great love for animals and the environment. New Vision has over 1,200 solar-powered lights in at least 28 countries, including the United States, and provide light to those who do not have access to electricity in their homes. Their latest project is to provide solar-powered lights to families in the Philippines who were struck by Typhoon Haiyan in the fall of 2013.

New Vision has a working partnership with the Catholic Coalition for Climate Change. Dan Misleh, Executive Director, Catholic Coalition on Climate Change, will also be sending an endorsement for New Vision Renewable Energy to Pope Francis. The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change is based in Washington, D.C. and focuses on connecting respect for God's creation with the impoverished life and ministry of St. Francis.

New Vision has a local 'Green Team' that meets every Monday from 6pm-8pm at their headquarters in Philippi. All community members 12 and older are encouraged to participate in making lights for the 1.2 billion people on earth living without electricity. For more information on how you, your church or organization can help light the world, contact lmurphy@nvre.org or call 304-457-2971.

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ABOUT NEW VISION: New Vision Renewable Energy is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization launched in Philippi, West Virginia in 2009 as a grassroots Christian Community Development organization working to ReEnergize Communities to implement renewable energy solutions in their own neighborhoods through hands-on community development efforts. New Vision is an educational and innovation movement focusing on applicable technologies with renewable solutions and serves as a hub of collaborative discussion, training and invention bringing together green innovators, community leaders, youth, companies, organizations as well as public and private partners. As a member of the United Nations Foundation Energy Practitioners Network, New Vision helps to eradicate the effects of poverty in the developing world. Visit www.NVRE.org or find us on Facebook at New Vision Renewable Energy for more details. For more information, contact Pamela O'Brien at POBrien@NVRE.org.