



**DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING
INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

**Introduction of the Video:
“Care of our Common Home: The Voice of Civil Society”**

Card. Michael Czerny S.J.

Casina Pio IV, 4 October 2022

Your Eminencies, Excellencies, brothers and sisters,

Today is the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, the final day of the Season of Creation in 2022, the Holy See’s official entry into the landmark Paris Agreement of 2015, and the première of a short video (now) and a major new film (this evening).

The global situation is more desperate today than it was seven years ago. Despite the Paris Agreement, its target of only a 1.5°C temperature increase is practically out of reach; the planet is already 1.2°C hotter. Yet many new fossil fuel projects are recklessly being initiated, contradicting the call from the International Energy Agency. That’s why the proposed Fossil Fuel Non-proliferation Treaty is essential, to complement the Paris Agreement and help implement it.

At the same time, seven years after its publication, the encyclical *Laudato si’* continues to inspire and guide people of good will towards in an ever more integral ecological approach, based on a culture of encounter, expressing respect for the gifts of the Earth, and together effectively taking care of them. Our Dicastery supports every effort of connecting, gathering, and sharing the voices of civil society.

The *Laudato Si’* Action Platform is a multi-year initiative sponsored by the Dicastery and led by the *Laudato Si’* Movement. The Encyclical establishes practical goals, while the platform organizes stakeholders in various sectors, common spaces for sharing concerns, discernment and commitment.

After little more than a year, registrations are encouraging. There are currently over 6 thousand (6,189) participants, with families (2,880) and schools (738) accounting for the largest number followed by religious communities (653), civil organizations (648), and parishes (351). The Platform is active across six continents, with representation in Europe (36%) and North America (27%), followed by South America (17%), then Asia and Africa. The Platform, an instrument at the service of local churches, is a place of communion, as *Fratelli tutti* calls for.

This evening is the première showing of *The Letter*,¹ a feature documentary film highlighting humanity’s capacity and responsibility to stop the ecological crisis. It has been produced in partnership with the *Laudato Si’* Movement, the Dicastery for Communication, and the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

¹ In the New Synod Hall, [The Letter](#) was broadcast live on Vatican News YouTube Channel



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Pope Francis is in dialogue with new voices, unheard until now. With us here are Ridhima Pandey from India - age 14 - and Arouna Kande from Senegal - age 24 - protagonists of the film. Millions of young people like them around the globe are urging us – particularly adults in positions of economic, political and cultural responsibility – to undergo ecological conversion and get moving.

Recent climate catastrophes, such as the apocalyptic floods submerging one-third of Pakistan – displacing over 30 million people – continue reminding us that the “cry of the earth and the cry of the poor” are becoming increasingly desperate. Pope Francis insists: “We must also accept *the universal ethical principal* – however unpopular – that damages must be repaired. This is a universal, ethical principle: damage must be repaired.”² This important issue promises to be central, and very difficult, at COP 27 in Egypt in November.³

“We have to embrace ... harmony with the environment and the earth” pleads the Holy Father, whatever spheres of life “we” inhabit. “We cannot just wait until the next international summit, which might be too late. The earth burns today, and today we must change, at all levels.”⁴

Now let me to introduce [Care of our Common Home: The Voice of Civil Society](#), a video produced by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development in collaboration with the Dicastery for Communication.

In this urgent call to action, the Holy Father reminds us that “we each have a part to play – whoever and wherever we may be – in changing the collective response to the care of our common home.”⁵

² Pope Francis, *Address to the Event “Economy of Francesco”*, PalaEventi Santa Maria degli Angeli (Assisi), 24 September 2022.

³ Sharm El Sheikh, 6-18 November 2022.

⁴ Pope Francis, *Address to the Event “Economy of Francesco”*, PalaEventi Santa Maria degli Angeli (Assisi), 24 September 2022.

⁵ Pope Francis, *A Joint Message for the Protection of Creation*, September 1, 2021.