



DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Press Conference - Pope Francis' September 1 2022 Message Christina Leño, Laudato Si' Movement

Pope Francis' message for this year's Season of Creation is one of urgency and hope. It emboldens our Laudato Si' Movement of Catholic individuals and institutions, laity and religious, youth and elder, from the Global North and Global South in our common mission to care for our common home.

The Holy Father reminds us that the Season is a time of both contemplation and action. We are to pray in the "great cathedral of creation", to listen to the anguished cries of creation in the countless silenced species, our brothers and sisters of the native peoples, the poor, and the youth. We are called to respond with concrete deeds "to do everything possible to prevent, or at least limit, the collapse of our planet's ecosystems."

We at Laudato Si' Movement are honored to be part of the ecumenical steering committee of the Season of Creation along with the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and our Protestant, Orthodox, and other Christian sisters and brothers. Each year the committee publishes a guide with prayers, action suggestions, and resources to celebrate the Season which can be found at SeasonOfCreation.org.

In a global ecumenical invitation to join the Season, these faith leaders declared that "As an unstoppable wave [during the Season of Creation], Christians from all over the world will witness to listen and respond together to the cry of creation."

Christian institutions will be joining Pope Francis in urging "the great extractive industries – mining, oil, forestry, real estate, agribusiness" to change course through actions such as fossil fuel divestment.

We will be calling for the needed communal conversion at the upcoming UN summits on biodiversity and climate to "adopt a new multilateral agreement to halt the destruction of ecosystems and the extinction of species" and urge "more ambitious nationally determined contributions in order to reduce to zero, as quickly as possible, net greenhouse gas emissions."

In recent days, over 1,100 people have died in Portugal and Spain's heat waves. In Monterrey, México, 5 million people are without water. And London has just registered temperatures of 40 celsius, as hot as the Sahara. We can see that, as Pope Francis says, "we are reaching a breaking point."

Pope Francis says, "[D]elay on the part of others can never justify our own failure to act." Inaction is no longer acceptable. We at the Laudato Si' Movement lift up the Pope's message in hope, trusting, as our ecumenical faith leaders have shared, that "each initiative will be an essential piece of the mosaic that only together we could create." We journey together in faith and commitment.