



## DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

### **Presentation of the Papal Message for 2022 Celebration of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation *Card. Michael Czerny S.J.***

The Holy Father's message for this year's Celebration of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation implores the world to "*Listen to the voice of creation*" and hear its bittersweet song: sweetly praising the Creator, bitterly lamenting our mistreatment of nature.

Worried about this mistreatment, the Holy Father calls for bolder action from all nations during this year's COP27 and COP15 summits on climate change and biodiversity.

Regarding COP27, Pope Francis again joins scientists in holding to the Paris Agreement's temperature increase goal of 1.5°C. The planet already is 1.2°C hotter, yet new fossil fuel projects every day accelerate our race towards the precipice. Enough is enough. All new exploration and production of coal, oil, and gas must immediately end,<sup>1</sup> and existing production of fossil fuels must be urgently phased out. This must be a just transition for impacted workers into environmentally sound alternatives. The proposed Fossil Fuel Nonproliferation Treaty holds great promise to complement and enhance the Paris Agreement.

Many Catholic institutions are already divesting from fossil fuel corporations<sup>2</sup> and striving towards a net zero climate impact.

Regarding biodiversity, the Holy Father highlights the need for a new UN agreement to halt the destruction of ecosystems and the extinction of species. At least half of the earth and oceans need to become protected areas by 2030,<sup>3</sup> and ravaged ecosystems must be restored, always upholding the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. May this limit the harm inflicted by "the great extractive industries" that Pope Francis calls out – "mining, oil, forestry, real estate, agribusiness".

I am happy to announce that the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development is strengthening the Laudato Si' Action Platform by naming John Mundell as its Director.

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<sup>1</sup> IEA, *Net Zero by 2050: A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector*, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Laudato Si' Interdicasterial Guidelines, *Journeying for the care of the common home*, 2020.

<sup>3</sup> E. Dinerstein et al, *A "Global Safety Net" to reverse biodiversity loss and stabilize Earth's climate*, *Science Advances*, Vol. 6, No. 36, 2020.

Mr. Mundell is an environmental engineer with Laudato Si' experience on behalf of the Focolare Movement.

During this Season of Creation, may all Christians come together to celebrate creation's sweet song and respond to creation's bitter cry.