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Conferenza Stampa di presentazione del Messaggio del Santo Padre Francesco in occasione della Giornata Mondiale di Preghiera per la cura del creato (1° settembre 2022)

Intervento dell'Em.mo Card. Michael Czerny, S.I.

Intervento di Sr Mary John Kudiyiruppil

Intervento di Christina Leño

Alle ore 13.00 di oggi ha avuto luogo - in diretta *streaming* dalla Sala Stampa della Santa Sede - la Conferenza Stampa di presentazione del Messaggio del Santo Padre Francesco in occasione della Giornata Mondiale di Preghiera per la cura del creato che si celebra il prossimo 1° settembre.

Sono intervenuti l'Em.mo Card. Michael Czerny, S.I., Prefetto del Dicastero per il Servizio dello Sviluppo Umano Integrale; Sister Mary John Kudiyiruppil, SSpS, *Associate Executive Secretary* dell'Unione Internazionale delle Superiori Generali (UISG); e la Signora Christina Leño, *Associate Director* del *Laudato si' Movement*.

Presente, con un contributo video, S.E. Mons. Jose Colin Mendoza Bagaforo, Vescovo di Kidapawan, Filippine, Direttore Nazionale di *Caritas* Filippine e del Programma *Laudato si'* della Conferenza Episcopale.

Ne riportiamo di seguito gli interventi:

Intervento dell'Em.mo Card. Michael Czerny, S.I.

Testo in lingua inglese

Traduzione in lingua italiana

Traduzione in lingua spagnola

Testo in lingua inglese

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,[1] 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[2] 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,[3] 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. 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.

[1] IEA, *Net Zero by 2050: A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector*, 2021.

[2] *Laudato si'* Interdicasterial Guidelines, *Journeying for the care of the common home*, 2020.

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

[01104-EN.01] [Original text: English]

Traduzione in lingua italiana

Nel suo messaggio per la celebrazione di quest'anno della Giornata Mondiale di Preghiera per la Cura del Creato, il Santo Padre supplica il mondo di "Ascoltare la voce del Creato" e di sentirne il canto agrodolce: lode armoniosa del Creatore, amaro lamento dell'uso sconsiderato che facciamo della natura.

Preoccupato per questo maltrattamento della natura, il Santo Padre chiede un'azione più audace da parte di tutte le nazioni durante i vertici COP27 e COP15 di quest'anno sui cambiamenti climatici e la biodiversità.

Per quanto riguarda il COP27, Papa Francesco si unisce ancora una volta agli scienziati affinché si continui a perseguire l'obiettivo di limitare l'aumento della temperatura a 1.5°C in base all'Accordo di Parigi. La temperatura del pianeta è già cresciuta di 1.2°C, ma ogni giorno nuovi progetti riguardanti i combustibili fossili accelerano la nostra corsa verso il baratro. Quando è troppo è troppo. Tutte le nuove esplorazioni e produzioni di carbone, petrolio e gas devono cessare immediatamente[1] mentre è urgente che la produzione esistente di combustibili debba essere gradualmente eliminata. Ciò deve avvenire con una giusta transizione per i lavoratori di questi settori verso alternative rispettose dell'ambiente. Il proposto Trattato di non Proliferazione dei combustibili fossili dà grandi speranze di integrare e rafforzare l'Accordo di Parigi.

Molte istituzioni cattoliche stanno già disinvestendo dalle società di combustibili fossili[2] e si stanno adoperando per un impatto climatico zero.

Per quanto riguarda la biodiversità, il Santo Padre sottolinea la necessità di un nuovo accordo delle Nazioni Unite per fermare la distruzione degli ecosistemi e l'estinzione delle specie. Almeno metà della terra e degli oceani devono diventare aree protette entro il 2030[3] e gli ecosistemi devastati devono essere ripristinati, Papa Francesco incita "le grandi compagnie estrattive – mineraria, petrolifera, forestale, immobiliare e agroalimentare" – a difendere sempre i diritti delle popolazioni indigene e delle comunità locali.

Sono lieto di annunciare che il Dicastero per il Servizio dello Sviluppo Umano Integrato ha rafforzato la *Piattaforma d'Azione Laudato si'* nominando John Mundell come suo Direttore. L'Ing. Mundell è un ingegnere ambientale con esperienza nella *Laudato si'* per conto del Movimento dei Focolari.

In questo Tempo del Creato, possano tutti i cristiani unirsi per celebrare il dolce canto della creazione e rispondere al suo amaro grido.

[1] IEA, *Net Zero by 2050: A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector*, 2021.

[2] *Laudato si'* Interdicasterial Guidelines, *Journeying for the care of the common home*, 2020.

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

[01104-IT.01] [Testo originale: Inglese]

Traduzione in lingua spagnola

El mensaje del Santo Padre para la celebración de la Jornada Mundial de Oración por el Cuidado de la Creación de este año implora al mundo que "*escuche la voz de la creación*" y oiga su melodía agrisulce: una que alaba dulcemente al Creador, al tiempo que llora amargamente nuestro maltrato a la naturaleza.

Preocupado por este abuso, el Santo Padre hace un llamamiento a una acción más audaz a todas las naciones, durante las cumbres de la COP27 y COP15 de este año, sobre el cambio climático y la biodiversidad.

En cuanto a la COP27, el Papa Francisco se une de nuevo a los científicos para mantener el objetivo de aumento de la temperatura del Acuerdo de París en 1,5 °C. El planeta ya está 1,2 °C más caliente, pero cada día nuevos proyectos de combustibles fósiles aceleran nuestra carrera hacia el precipicio. Ya es suficiente. Hay que poner fin inmediatamente a todas las nuevas exploraciones y producciones de carbón, petróleo y gas[1], y hay que eliminar urgentemente la producción existente de combustibles fósiles. Esta debe ser una transición justa para los trabajadores afectados hacia alternativas ambientalmente saludables. El Tratado de no proliferación de combustibles fósiles propuesto es muy prometedor para complementar y mejorar el Acuerdo de

París.

Muchas instituciones católicas ya están desinvirtiendo en empresas de combustibles fósiles[2] y se esfuerzan por lograr un impacto climático neto cero.

En cuanto a la biodiversidad, el Santo Padre destaca la necesidad de un nuevo acuerdo de la ONU para detener la destrucción de los ecosistemas y la extinción de las especies. Al menos la mitad de la tierra y los océanos deben convertirse en áreas protegidas para 2030[3], y los ecosistemas devastados deben ser restaurados, siempre respetando los derechos de los pueblos indígenas y las comunidades locales. Que esto limite el daño infringido por “las grandes industrias extractivas” que el Papa Francisco señala “la minería, el petróleo, la silvicultura, el sector inmobiliario, la agroindustria”.

Me complace anunciar que el Dicasterio para el Servicio del Desarrollo Humano Integral refuerza la Plataforma de Acción *Laudato si'* nombrando a John Mundell como su director. El Sr. Mundell es un ingeniero medioambiental con experiencia en *Laudato si'* en nombre del Movimiento de los Focolares.

Que durante este Tiempo de la Creación, todos los cristianos se unan para celebrar la dulce (o suave, no se cual es el original ingles) melodía de la creación y responder a su amargo grito.

[1] IEA, *Net Zero by 2050: A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector*, 2021.

[2] *Laudato si'* Interdicasterial Guidelines, *Journeying for the care of the common home*, 2020.

[3] E. Dinerstein et al, A “*Global Safety Net*” to reverse biodiversity loss and stabilize Earth’s climate, *Science Advances*, Vol. 6, No. 36, 2020.

[01104-ES.01] [Texto original: Inglés]

Intervento di Sr Mary John Kudiyiruppil

Pope Francis’ message for this World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation begins the month- long Season of Creation beginning on September 1. It calls us “to cultivate our ecological conversion” and practice “an ecological spirituality” which acknowledges that we are “not disconnected from the rest of creatures but joined in a splendid universal communion.” When we reach this deep awareness we become attentive to the sweet song rising from the luxurious diversity of creation. But we can also hear the cry of anguish from our sister, Mother Earth who cries out from the abuses and destruction which we inflict on her. This in turn deeply affects the lives of poor people, indigenous people, the young and the elderly. Our vocation is to be protectors of God’s handiwork and so we hear the call to repent and modify our lifestyle. In addition Pope Francis reminds us that Cop27 (the Conference on Climate Change) and Cop15 (the Summit on Biodiversity) offer us an opportunity to advocate together for lasting change and for the development of models of consumption and production that respect creation and the integral develop of all peoples.

The members of the International Union of Superiors General participate each year in the Season of Creation, using the guide for times of prayer and reflection, and for promoting action. This year’s theme “Listen to the Voice of Creation” requires a type of deep listening that is often absent today. This listening is more than just hearing. It is contemplation which open us to hear the many voices of creation, to be nurtured by its beauty and abundance and to be disturbed by its disfiguration and destruction. As we listen deeply we too feel called like Pope Francis, to cry out and say “in the name of God....stop destroying forests, wetlands, mountains...stop polluting and poisoning food and people.” As religious sisters we commit ourselves during this Season of Creation to pray for conversion of heart (during our liturgies and prayers) to advocate for change (through our symbolic acts) and to raise awareness through our congregational ministries. During this Season of Creation we

join the worldwide community in embracing our vocation to care for our common home. We will intensify our efforts, through deliberate and enduring initiatives to make known the ancient wisdom of the jubilee in relation to the earth: remember, return, rest and restore.

[01106-EN.01] [Original text: English]

Intervento della Signora Christina Leño

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.

[01105-EN.01] [Original text: English]

[B0549-XX.02]
