



The Global Catholic
Climate Movement
www.CatholicClimateMovement.global

November 17 – For immediate release

Over Half a Million Catholics Worldwide Have Spoken on Climate Change

Over 500,000 Catholics in 130 countries have signed the [Catholic Climate Petition](#) urging world leaders to take urgent action on climate change. Launched by the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) in April 2015, the petition was [endorsed by Pope Francis](#) in May giving it a unique status of being the only environmental petition to be endorsed by the Holy Father. Since then other church leaders such as [Cardinal Tagle](#) and [Cardinal Hummes](#) and over [20 other individual bishops](#) around the world have also added their endorsement, along with several bishops conferences.

The petition states: “Climate change affects everyone, but especially the poor and most vulnerable people among us. Inspired by Pope Francis and the Laudato Si’ encyclical, we call on you to drastically cut carbon emissions to keep the global temperature rise below the dangerous 1.5°C threshold, and to aid the world’s poorest in coping with climate change impacts.”

This is yet another example of how the “Francis effect” is stimulating eco-engagement by faith communities historically quiet in the climate debate. When this past summer Pope Francis released his encyclical on ecology, many Catholics worldwide took his message to heart and entered this new field of green activism. In the document, the Holy Father calls for action which would “involve each of us as individuals, and also affect international policy.” (#15) Following this directive, the Global Catholic Climate Movement developed this petition with a goal of getting 1 million signatures.

The signatures of the Catholic Climate Petition will be delivered to world leaders by Cardinal Cláudio Hummes at the Paris Climate Summit on November 28. Along with the Catholic Petition, several other faith groups, such as [OurVoices](#) which is a multi-faith organization will present petitions of their own. In addition to the Christian faith, the [Muslim](#), [Jewish](#) and [Buddhist](#) faith communities have released statements in support of Pope Francis’ encyclical calling for bold action on climate disruption. All of these actions point to the collaboration of the entire faith population joining the conversation on climate.

###END###

NOTES FOR EDITOR

Pictures of Pope Francis endorsing the petition can be found here:

<http://catholicclimatemovement.global/pope-francis-endorsed-catholic-climate-petition/>

Pictures of cardinals and bishops who have supported the petition can be found here:

<http://catholicclimatemovement.global/endorsers/>

Pictures of Catholics collecting petitions around the world can be found here:

<http://catholicclimatemovement.global/petition/updates/>

Founded in January 2015, the GCCM is a coalition of over 240 Catholic organizations working to respond to the moral imperative of the climate change crisis. Further information can be found at <http://catholicclimatemovement.global/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

GLOBAL:

Christina Leano, Global Campaigns Coordinator of GCCM

+1 786-459-5667 | [christina\(AT\)catholicclimatemovement.global](mailto:christina(AT)catholicclimatemovement.global)

Tomás Insua, Movement Coordinator of GCCM

+1 857-272-8775 | [tomas\(AT\)catholicclimatemovement.global](mailto:tomas(AT)catholicclimatemovement.global)

AFRICA:

Allen Ottaro, Executive Director of Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa (Kenya)

+254721605830 (cell) | [cynes.africa\(AT\)gmail.com](mailto:cynes.africa(AT)gmail.com)

ASIA:

Lou Arsenio, Ecology Ministry Coordinator of Archdiocese of Manila (Philippines)

+63 908 869 0211 | [61louva\(AT\)gmail.com](mailto:61louva(AT)gmail.com)

Ciara Shannon, Asia Coordinator of Our Voices (Hong Kong)

+852 62096775 (cell) | [ciarashannon.hk\(AT\)gmail.com](mailto:ciarashannon.hk(AT)gmail.com)

EUROPE:

Brother Benedict Ayodi, Director JPIC of Capuchin Franciscans – Curia Generale (Italy)

+393347948970 | [jp-pic\(AT\)ofmcap.org](mailto:jp-pic(AT)ofmcap.org)

Gabriel López Santamaría, Editor of Pazybien.es (Spain)

+34 691907261 | [gabriel\(AT\)pazybien.es](mailto:gabriel(AT)pazybien.es)

LATIN AMERICA:

Dr. Pablo Canziani, Red Argentina de Laicos, Acción Católica Argentina, Investigador Principal
Conicet (Argentina)

+54-9-11-3582-2279 | pocanziani(AT)gmail.com

Igor Bastos, Campaigns Coordinator of GCCM (Brazil)

+55 (34) 9242-8692 | igor(AT)catholicclimatemovement.global

Fabián Campos, Campaigns Coordinator of GCCM (Ecuador)

+593 993790762 | fabian(AT)catholicclimatemovement.global

NORTH AMERICA:

Patrick Carolan, Executive Director of Franciscan Action Network (USA)

+1-202-527-7565 (office) +1-203-522-2324 (cell) | pcarolan(AT)franciscanaction.org

Bill Patenaude, Author of CatholicEcology.net (USA)

+1-401-374-4412 | bill(AT)catholicecology.net

OCEANIA:

Jacqui Rémond, Director of Catholic Earthcare Australia

+61 (02) 8907 9500 (office) +61 0413 715 375 (cell) |

jacqui.remond(AT)catholicearthcare.org.au