



## GLOBAL CATHOLIC CLIMATE MOVEMENT

### **JOINT CATHOLIC DIVESTMENT ANNOUNCEMENT – OCTOBER 4, 2017**

The GCCM recently launched the [Catholic Divest Reinvest program](#) as a response to the Laudato Si' encyclical, to encourage Catholic institutions to divest from fossil fuel companies and invest only on socially and ethically responsible companies that do not cause harm to people and the environment.

There is a real scientific evidence that we need to bend the global curve of emissions **no later than 2020** and reach a fossil-fuel free world economy by 2050. Pope Francis sent a dramatic call to action in his encyclical Laudato Si' stressing the moral imperative to care for our common home and the poorest who are suffering the worst impacts of climate change, to "hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor".

Many faithful Catholics are commendably responding to Laudato Si' by moderating their consumption and embracing renewable energy technology. However, without careful attention to the way money is being invested, there is a strong possibility of unwittingly supporting the very practices that are degrading our planet. Fossil fuel divestment is about moral consistency, it is about taking a prophetic stand in relation to the dominance of fossil fuels in the global economy, hence **the call to make your decision publicly known**.

**The GCCM encourages Catholic institutions to announce their divestment commitments together as joint announcements on key dates, to increase the visibility of the cause.**

The **next divestment announcement will be on October 4, Feast of St Francis**. It is possible to take this important step to bring to life the Laudato Si message filling this [FOSSIL FREE PLEDGE FORM](#) to formalize the divestment commitment.

**It is possible to join the announcement now once the decision is taken**, not at the end of the 5 years process and **even if the the divestment is not possible because the organization never invested in fossil fuels companies**.

Please also take into consideration that the next announcement will be in the context of [Season of Creation](#): GCCM be joining with other Christian denominations around the world in celebrating the Season of Creation between September 1 and October 4, with symbolic prayer events around the world, and strong calls for local climate action.

We strongly invite you to visit the website and structure your Season of Creation action and prayer to be registered on this [map](#).

For more information, please contact:

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