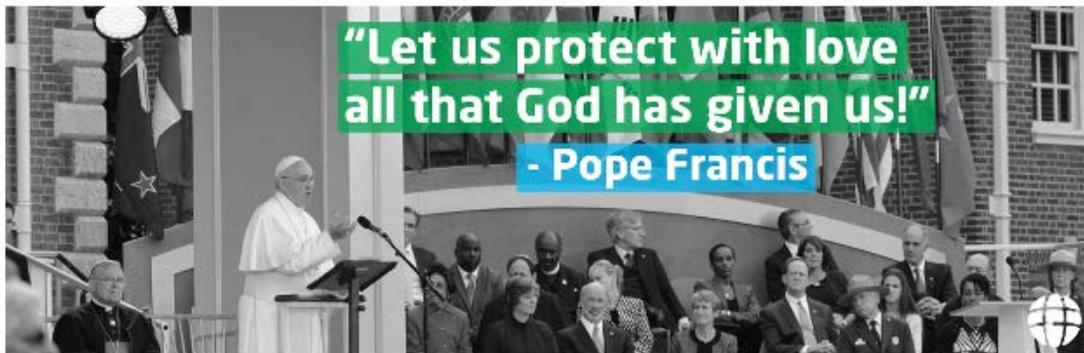


PRAYERS FROM THE FRONT LINES OF CLIMATE CHANGE



First day of the meeting, November 6: Pacific Islands

Columban Missionaries in Fiji

Fiji is the co-host of the current round of climate talks, which are the next step in the Paris agreement.

- Local issue: Low-lying Pacific Islands are threatened by catastrophic sea level rise. Fiji has already relocated its first climate refugees; [the entire nation of Kribati](#) has purchased land to resettle its people.
- **We pray that refugees from the climate crisis find peace and Fijian “Bula vinaka,” or a spirit of welcome, in their new homes. We pray that migration policies include climate refugees among those who need special consideration.**
- Church teaching: “*God clearly and repeatedly recommends hospitality and generosity toward the stranger.*” (Pope John Paul II)

Second day of the meeting, November 7: Portugal

Pedro Vaz Patto, National Justice and Peace Commission of Portugal

- Local issue: Portugal was recently devastated by deadly wildfires that were made more likely because of climate change. A group of [Portuguese children is suing](#) the nations in Europe that emit the most greenhouse gases for their failure to pass more robust climate policies.
- Prayer: **We pray for the young and future generations, who will inherit the short-sightedness of past generations. We pray that wisdom grows, and that we take to heart the imperative to protect young people and all our vulnerable sisters and brothers.**
- Church teaching: “*Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded.*” (Laudato Si’, 13)

Third day of the meeting, November 8: Amazonia

Frei Éderson Queiroz, Franciscan Family

Local issue: The Amazon is home to about 15,000 species of trees, all of them beautiful testaments to the Creator. Scientists predict that at the recent rate of extinction, [over 50%](#) of the tree species in the Amazon will vanish in the coming decades. Environmental advocates are putting their lives and livelihoods on the line to protect the Amazon.

- Prayer: **We pray for all of the creatures that suffer poor stewardship of creation, and we pray peace for the courageous advocates who are standing up for the Amazon.**
- Church teaching: *“We cannot fail to praise the commitment of international agencies and civil society organizations which . . . ensure that each government carries out its proper and inalienable responsibility to preserve its country’s environment & natural resources, without capitulating to spurious local or international interests.” (Laudato Si’ 38)*

Fourth day of the meeting, November 9: United States

Dan Misleh, Catholic Climate Covenant

- Local issue: The recent [wildfires](#) in California, [flooding](#) in Texas, and [hurricanes](#) in Puerto Rico were all made more likely and more intense by climate change. Scores of people were killed, millions of people are still in danger and in distress, thousands of homes and businesses were lost, and recovery is just beginning.
 - Prayer: **We pray that the Holy Spirit increases compassion for the victims of extreme weather, that they find God's grace and peace amid their loss, and that the nation's leaders open their hearts and minds to the realities of climate change.**
 - Church teaching: *“Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could.” (St. Gregory Nazianzen)*

Fifth day of the meeting, November 10: Nigeria

Rev. Christopher Amaubosi, Bishop Okoye Spiritan Secondary School

- Northern Nigeria, a land traditionally inhabited by herders, has seen an explosive growth in the size of its deserts. The herders who have long grazed their livestock in these areas are being forced to seek better grounds. This in turn [fuels fatal conflicts](#) with farmers who live in places the herders try to occupy. The growth of the desert is partially driven by climate change, and Nigerian herders contribute vanishingly small amounts of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Prayer: **We pray for the safety of people who are affected by growing deserts. We pray for compassion and healing in their new homes. In our pilgrimage of hope, Creator, draw us into deeper solidarity with vulnerable people.**
- Church teaching: *“We judge ourselves as a community of faith by the way we treat the most vulnerable among us.” (Letter from the bishops of Mexico and the United States)*

Sixth day of the meeting, November 11: Germany

Gertrud Casel, German Justice and Peace Commission

- Local issue: Nations do have the power to make significant progress on climate change. Germany recently [broke a record in clean energy](#), getting 35% of its electricity from clean sources in the first half of 2017.
- Prayer: **We pray that the transition to clean energy is just and swift.**
- Church teaching: *“There is an urgent need to develop policies so that, in the next few years, the emission of carbon dioxide and other highly polluting gases can be drastically reduced, for example, substituting for fossil fuels and developing sources of renewable energy.” (Laudato Si’, 26)*

Seventh day of the meeting, November 12: Caribbean Islands

Waldo Brea, Youth Institute of the Dominican Republic

- Local issue: 40 million people live in the Caribbean, which is threatened by increased hurricanes and rising seas. An open-source project [is sharing climate predictions](#) to help Caribbean nations adapt.
- Prayer: **We pray that the people of the Caribbean and all sisters and brothers around the world continue to find ways to safely adapt to the new reality of climate change.**
- Church teaching: *“A fragile world, entrusted by God to human care, challenges us to devise intelligent ways of directing, developing, and limiting our power.” (Laudato Si’ 78)*

Eighth day of the meeting, November 13: Australia

Jacqui Redmond, GCCM Steering Committee Member

- Local issue: Australia has been devastated by droughts that are made more likely by climate change. It also has some of the biggest coal mines in the world, and its leaders just [dropped national clean energy targets](#).
- Prayer: **We pray that Australia’s leaders see the wisdom of stepping away from carbon-intensive energy, such as coal and gas, and stepping towards clean energy that will protect the land and its people.**
- Church teaching: *“Put an end to the fossil fuel era, and provide affordable, reliable and safe renewable access for all.” (Bishops from all continents, statement for COP21)*

Ninth day of the meeting, November 14: Ecuador

Dayana Baño, GCCM Chapter Ecuador

- Local issue: In Gualaquiza, Ecuador, [Indigenous leaders recently held a tribunal](#) for large-scale mining companies that they have seen displace communities and disrespect creation. The companies mine for copper, which is used in mobile phones.
- Prayer: **We pray that communities on the front lines of the environmental crisis will lift their voices and be heard. We pray that patterns of consumption will change, and start protecting the Earth and its people.**
- Church teaching: *“We note that often the businesses which operate this way are multinationals. They do here what they would never do in developed countries or the so-called first world.” (Bishops of the Patagonia-Comahue Region)*

Tenth day of the meeting, November 15: Philippines

Yeb Sano, Greenpeace Southeast Asia and Board Member, GCCM

- Local issue: Four years ago this month, [Typhoon Yolanda](#) (also known as Haiyan) tore through the Philippines, leaving a massive trail of devastation, killing thousands of people and displacing millions. The typhoon was made more likely by climate change. Small-scale farmers, fisherfolk, and impoverished communities have limited resources to recover after devastation like Yolanda’s. Climate change is bringing ongoing instability to the region, and the poor are struggling to adapt.
- Prayer: **We pray for the ingenuity and resilience of the Filipino people. We pray for a spirit of compassion and solidarity among people who live in nations and economies with excessive greenhouse gas emissions and unsustainable lifestyles.**
- Church teaching: *“Many of the poor live in areas particularly affected by phenomena related to warming, and their means of subsistence are largely dependent on natural reserves and ecosystemic services such as agriculture, fishing, and forestry.” (Laudato Si’, 25)*

Eleventh day of the meeting, November 16: India

Bishop Allwyn D'Silva, Auxiliary Bishop of Archdiocese of Bombay

- Local issue: Unpredictable monsoons and flooding, which are more likely because of climate change, have contributed to [2.3 million people in India](#) becoming homeless as a result of extreme weather just this year. In addition to being homeless, some of these families are grieving. Over 1,000 people were killed in South Asian floods this fall.
- Prayer: **We pray that South Asia will grow in its resilience to climate catastrophes. We pray that everyone will have a safe home and support to recover from disasters.**
- Church teaching: *“Efforts to address climate change must take into account creation and its relationship to ‘the least of these.’” (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)*

Twelfth day of the meeting, November 17: Kenya

Timothy Njeru, Caritas Kenya

- In Kenya, [smallhold farmers and pastoralists like the Maasai](#) are threatened by climate change, which makes rainfall unpredictable. This affects both the cattle they traditionally manage and the garden farms they've turned to as a substitute.
- Prayer: **We pray for the goodwill and grace of Indigenous people and all people whose children will not live as they have because of the changing climate.**

Church teaching: *“In this sense, it is essential to show special care for indigenous communities and their cultural traditions. . . For them, land is not a commodity but rather a gift from God and from their ancestors who rest there, a sacred space with which they need to interact if they are to maintain their identity and values. (Laudato Si', 146)*