



**Vatican Message to Paris Climate Agreement Signatory Nations leading up to COP22 meeting in Morocco,
November 7-18, 2016**

Re: Request for Australian Church Leaders to Act Together

Dear Australian Church Leaders,

On September 28th 2016 the *Vatican Justice and Peace Commission* held a Joint Consultation with the *Pontifical Academy of Sciences* to evaluate the global response to Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, and prepare for the upcoming global climate change meeting in Marrakech, Morocco, known as the '*Conference of Parties 22*' (COP 22). At the end of the consultation Pope Francis' concluding remarks were, "*This [climate change] is a human problem, it's our problem, so we should solve it. And it grows poverty and misery in the world, that's why I'm so worried about it.*"

The participants at the Vatican Joint Consultation noted that: "*We urge all the signatories of the Paris Agreement to move forward together with determination, urgency, shared values and a common global plan.*"

A significant outcome of the meeting was that, in preparation for COP 22, the participants called on churches around the world to disseminate a **Ten Point Message** (see next page).

Catholic Earthcare Australia and the Columban Mission Institute are writing to ask your organization to support this Vatican message by emailing or writing to our Australian Government Representatives to the COP 22 meeting to be held in Morocco 7-18 November 2016. Several signatures to a letter will give it greater weight.

Last December, the Paris Climate Agreement was negotiated and finalized at COP21. Millions of people around our planet stood up and asked leaders to agree on real action to care for our common home. The *Global Catholic Climate Movement*, of which *Catholic Earthcare Australia* and the *Missionary Society of St Columban* are founding members, collected nearly a million signatures on its petition asking our leaders to understand that "Climate change affects everyone, but especially the poor and most vulnerable people among us."

We believe Australians need to call for action on climate change. We also believe that it would be helpful if our Australian delegates received a letter from you outlining the Ten Point Message. Every one of us carries a responsibility to care for our common home and this is one action we can take to make a difference.

We have prepared a letter and we invite you to personalize it and send it to three people:

(Minister for Foreign Affairs) Hon. Julie Bishop Julie.Bishop.MP@aph.gov.au

(Minister for Environment and Energy) Hon. Josh Frydenberg josh.frydenberg.MP@aph.gov.au

(Head of the Department of the Environment and Energy's delegation, Assistant Secretary, International Branch) Ms Kushla Munro kushla.munro@environment.gov.au

With Sincere Gratitude,

Rev Dr Patrick McInerney,
Director, *Columban Mission Institute*
Inquiries to *Columban Mission Institute*, 02 9352 8000 or *Catholic Earthcare Australia*, 02 8920 9500

Jacqui Remond,
Director, *Catholic Earthcare Australia*

Dear _____,

RE: Message from Australian Church Leaders for Delegates on the Path to COP 22

The Paris Climate Agreement is historic. For the first time since the signing of the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), all countries have agreed to act in order to protect the planet. The core goals include: (1) keeping warming to “well below 2-degrees C” and “to pursue efforts to keep below 1.5-degree C”; (2) enabling countries to adapt to the adverse impacts already underway; and (3) ensuring the flow of fair and equitable financing to achieve the climate goals.

COP22 in Marrakech, Morocco, November 7-18, 2016, will be the first meeting of the Parties since the Paris Agreement. We urge all the signatories of the Paris Agreement to move forward together with determination, urgency, shared values and a common global plan.

We urgently appeal for the following Ten Points be taken forward as you represent us on the global stage:

First, the Paris Climate Agreement should be understood as a pillar of the world’s overarching commitment to integral and sustainable human development, including the universally agreed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the words of *Laudato Si'*, the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement reflect the need for “one world with a common plan.”

Second, the Paris Climate Agreement should be put into force in 2016, with countries representing at least 55 percent of global emissions depositing their instruments of ratification this year;

Third, all signatory countries should insist on the universality of the agreement. The Paris Agreement is a common plan for our common home. No individual country should absent itself from the timely ratification and implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement;

Fourth, all countries should participate in COP22 with the firm intention of adopting Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to 2030 and Long-Term Low-Greenhouse Gas Emission Development Strategies (LEDS) to 2050 that are sufficiently bold to achieve the limits on global warming in the Paris Agreement;

Fifth, technical experts from all signatory countries should participate in the Low-Emission Solutions Conference (LESC) at COP22, hosted by the Government of Morocco for the purpose of disseminating best practices and ideas on how best to achieve the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.

Sixth, all signatory countries should professionally address the key roles of their national energy systems, national agriculture systems, and land use policies, in order to implement the Paris Agreement objectives;

Seventh, in implementing national land use policies, governments, business, and civil society should aim for several crucial objectives: to end deforestation; restore degraded lands; protect biodiversity and ecosystems; and crucially, to empower indigenous populations who are often the stewards of the threatened lands;

Eighth, all countries should agree in good faith to cooperate on adequate Climate Financing, with the high-income countries honoring their long-standing pledges in transparency and sincerity to provide at least \$100 billion per year by 2020 to the low-income countries to finance energy transformation, land restoration, and adaptation and resilience;

Ninth, all signatories should honor the collective commitment to implement international mechanisms for “Losses and Damages,” and notably to compensate countries that are suffering extreme weather and climate events (including heat waves, epidemic diseases, rising sea levels, droughts, floods, and extreme tropical cyclones) linked to human-induced climate change.

Tenth, all stakeholders, including governments, business, and civil society, should promote the education of today’s young people in the sciences and ethical values of integral human development and sustainable

development. All educational institutions should strive to update their curricula and teaching programs to educate young people in these great challenges.

Thank you for your attention to these critical points of action. If we are to succeed in avoiding the worst of the impacts of climate change, it will be through your preparedness to take action that commits Australia to play our part in leading humanity to care for our common home.

Yours sincerely,