



## Missionary Society of St Columban

聖高隆龐傳教會

*General Council*

### **Columban Missionaries on the opening of COP 24, Katowice, Poland.**

HONG KONG, DECEMBER 2, 2018) The Columban General Council on the opening of the United Nations' COP24 hosted in Katowice, Poland, wishes to send a message **urging governments to take meaningful action that ensures global warming will not exceed 1.5C**, which includes a rapid and just transition to clean, renewable, and sustainable energy use by all.

In October 2018 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ([IPCC](#)) [released a special report](#) on global warming. The report lays out the challenges as well as paths for progress. We take seriously the scientific evidence presented in the report that says, **“Limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared with 2°C would reduce challenging impacts on ecosystems, human health and well-being...”** We seek to be part of a global systematic response by governments, businesses, faith communities, and individuals that reduces greenhouse emissions and transitions to a sustainable and fossil free energy system.

We applaud [the 2018 climate justice statement released jointly by representatives of all the continental bishops' conferences](#) on the occasion of COP24. In particular we join in their particular policy calls, **grounded in principles of urgency, intergenerational justice, human dignity and rights:**

- Keep temperature rise to below 1.5C;
- Transition to deep and durable lifestyle change;
- Listen to, protect, and preserve the wisdom of indigenous communities;
- Shift financial paradigm to one that promotes justice, dignity, and equality;
- Transform energy sector to fossil free and;
- Transform agriculture sector to agroecology that ensures human well-being and care for the earth

We note as well Pope Francis' recognition in *Laudato Si'* of the interconnectedness and intrinsic value of all Creation when he says, ***Each organism, as a creature of God, is good and admirable in itself...*** (LS 140.)

**Columbans worldwide see** intimately the devastating impacts of climate change on people and the earth **and commit** to the protection of biodiversity as integral to our missionary vocation of caring for all of God's creation. **We respond** through collaborative ecumenical and interfaith grassroots prayer, education, and policy advocacy. **We continue to refine** institutional investment by applying negative screens to industries that harm the environment such as fossil fuels. **We join with others** in our local dioceses and the [Global Catholic Climate Movement](#) and [REPAM](#) in responding to Pope Francis call to work for an integral ecology and human development. **We celebrate** the courageous [Climate Pilgrims](#) who have walked 1500 kilometers from the Vatican to Katowice in their witness to the need for: an urgent transition to a just climate economy, increase in climate finance, and a global rulebook that holds countries accountable for their climate commitments.

**We pray** that COP24 will result in meaningful policy and action that brings the urgent change needed to set the world on a path to climate healing and justice for all.

Rev. Timothy Mulroy  
Superior General

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