

2023 Season of Creation

Transforming Public Policy

Reflection Six: September 24-30

“We know that technology based on the use of highly polluting fossil fuels--especially coal, but also oil and, to a lesser degree, gas--needs to be progressively replaced without delay.”
~Laudato Si #165

READ: Sixth part of Pope Francis' letter for the 2023 Season of Creation (on page 2)

REFLECT: Is the river of justice and peace getting mightier ... or drying up? Francis has already challenged us to transform our hearts and our lifestyles, now he makes clear the need for transformation of **public policies**. Continuing down the path of fossil fuel expansion only wastes the climate, wastes the poor and wastes the future for children of all species. As in Laudato Si, the Pope calls upon all people of good will to act out of the perspective that all of creation is interconnected, that there is one common home. Let justice and peace flow!

ACT: Every economic decision is an ecological one! What part do I play in propping up the fossil fuel era (and thus unsustainable public policy)? This fall will see the crucial gathering of COP 28, of which Francis makes demands. *(The main goal of COP28 is to “unite the world towards agreement on bold, practical and ambitious solutions to the most pressing global challenge of our time” – climate change.)**

Give a listen to the president of the COP 28 gathering at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8oGM8--TgY> “Greenwashing”? Or sincerity?

PRAY: Jonah 3: 1 – 8

“... there is reason to hope that humanity at the dawn of the twenty-first century will be remembered for having generously shouldered its grave responsibilities.” ~Laudato Si #165

Resources for September 24-30

Pope Francis' letter for the 2023 Season of Creation (Excerpt 6 of 8)

6 Lastly, for the mighty river to continue flowing, we must transform the public policies that govern our societies and shape the lives of young people today and tomorrow. Economic policies that promote scandalous wealth for a privileged few and degrading conditions for many others, spell the end of peace and justice. It is clear that the richer nations have contracted an “ecological debt” that must be paid (cf. *Laudato Si'*, 51). (5) The world leaders who will gather for the COP28 summit in Dubai from 30 November to 12 December must listen to science and institute a rapid and equitable transition to end the era of fossil fuels. According to the commitments undertaken in the Paris Agreement to restrain global warming, it is absurd to permit the continued exploration and expansion of fossil fuel infrastructures. Let us raise our voices to halt this injustice towards the poor and towards our children, who will bear the worst effects of climate change. I appeal to all people of good will to act in conformity with these perspectives on society and nature.

[5] “A true ‘ecological debt’ exists, particularly between the global north and south, connected to commercial imbalances with effects on the environment, and the disproportionate use of natural resources by certain countries over long periods of time.” (LS, 51)

From: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2023/documents/20230513-messaggio-giornata-curacreato.html>

*from “What is the main objective of COP 28?”

[Frequently Asked Questions | Dr. Sultan Al Jaber \(drsultanaljaber.com\)](https://www.dr.sultanaljaber.com)

photo: courtesy of Father Jim Brobst, OMI