

Rome  
18 March 2020

### **Global Catholic Climate Movement Statement on Coronavirus**

In the past week, the coronavirus pandemic has disrupted the lives of millions. At the same time, countless people have stepped forward to offer selfless acts of compassion to their neighbors in need.

From all of us at Global Catholic Climate Movement, we offer prayers for those who suffer sickness and uncertainty. We stand in solidarity with everyone who is affected by the virus, and we are united with our entire network in love and prayer for the most vulnerable.

At the same time, we offer prayers of thanks for everyone who is working to manage this crisis—from doctors and nurses to grocers and mail carriers.

The extraordinary response to the coronavirus shows that we are capable of demonstrating the love that God gave us. From young people caring for their elders in Ecuador to families singing together from balconies in Rome, this crisis has helped us respond to Jesus' call to love our neighbors in new and profoundly unexpected ways.

As Pope Francis said in *Laudato Si'*, "humanity is one people living in a common home." (164) We know that the disruptions will continue, but we draw hope from our faith and from each other.

In order to adapt to the pandemic, we're exploring creative ways to update our programs in alignment with the guidelines of healthcare professionals.

We're now collaborating with our partners to adapt activities for *Laudato Si'* Week, the *Laudato Si'* Animators program, and climate strikes. We'll share concrete plans in the next week and as the pandemic continues to unfold.

#### **In the meantime, here are a few ways to stay connected.**

- Add [this weekly prayer service](#) to your calendar. We're meeting every Friday to be present with each other and the Spirit as we experience the new reality of the pandemic and continue to grow in love for the most vulnerable. The prayer service takes place every Friday at 12:00 NYC / 16:00 London and [the link to register is here](#).
- Take a look at [suggested Laudato Si' activities for the pandemic](#). They'll bring spiritual well-being and practical acts of compassion into your experience of the coronavirus.



As we pray with love for the millions who are affected by this crisis, we also remember others whose suffering is with us. We pray for the hungry people fleeing desert wars in Chad, the thirsty people whose wells are ruined by rising seas in the Pacific, and the homeless people who cannot rebuild after storms in Mozambique.

While we acknowledge the severe challenges we face, we find hope in the actions of the community of the Spirit. As Pope Francis has said, “we know that things can change.” (Laudato Si’, 13)

With you, we fervently pray that these bonds of solidarity will remain with us, and that our love will grow through this crisis and beyond.