

English

Statements on divest/invest from Church leaders

"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.**Politics and business have been slow to react in a way commensurate with the urgency of the challenges facing our world."

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* 165

"We, Cardinals, Patriarchs, and Bishops, issue a general call and make ten specific policy proposals. We call on COP 21 . . . to develop new models of development and lifestyles that are climate compatible, address inequality and bring people out of poverty. **Central to this is to put an end to the fossil fuel era, phasing out fossil fuel emissions,** including emissions from military, aviation and shipping, and providing affordable, reliable and safe renewable energy access for all."

Continental Bishops' Conferences, [COP 21 Appeal](#)

"Yet even more worrying is the continued search for new fossil fuel reserves, whereas the Paris Agreement clearly urged keeping most fossil fuels underground. . . .**Civilization requires energy, but energy use must not destroy civilization!**"

Pope Francis, [speech](#) to fossil fuel CEOs and investors, June 2018

"We reiterate our urgent call to **"put an end the fossil fuel era"** through a rapid transition to an economy powered by renewable energy, as we know from scientists that **most fossil fuel reserves need to remain underground.**"

Continental Bishops' Conferences, [joint statement on climate justice](#)

"The signs today are not good. **Investments in fossil fuels continue to rise, even though scientists tell us that fossil fuels should remain underground.**"

Pope Francis, [address](#) to finance ministers May 2019

"We assume and support the divestment campaigns from extractive companies related to the socio-ecological damage of the Amazon, starting with our own ecclesial institutions and also in alliance with other churches."

Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon Region, [Final Document](#) 70

"The businesses, national or international, which harm the Amazon and fail to respect the right of the original peoples to the land and its boundaries, and to self-determination and prior consent, should be called for what they are: injustice and crime. **When certain businesses out for quick profit appropriate lands and end up privatizing even potable water, or when local authorities give free access to the timber companies, mining or oil projects, and other businesses that raze the forests and pollute the environment, economic relationships are unduly altered and become an instrument of death.**"

Pope Francis, [Apostolic Exhortation Querida Amazonia](#) 14

"Yet even as we feel this healthy sense of indignation, we are reminded that it is possible to overcome the various colonizing mentalities and to build networks of solidarity and development. "The challenge, in short, is to ensure a globalization in solidarity, a globalization without marginalization".[15] **Alternatives can be sought for sustainable herding and agriculture, sources of energy that do not pollute, dignified means of employment that do not entail the destruction of the natural environment and of cultures.**"

Pope Francis, [Apostolic Exhortation Querida Amazonia](#) 17

"Spread the **use of ethical, responsible and integral criteria for investments**, avoiding the support to harmful companies to human or social ecology (for example abortion and weapons) and for **environmental ecology (for example fossil fuels).**"

"Promote social and environmentally responsible investments, for example by evaluating the progressive divestment from the fossil fuel sector"

[Journey Toward our Common Home, Five years after Laudato Si](#), Interdicasterial Working Group Of The Holy See On Integral Ecology p. 178,179

"We know that the fossil fuels are causing the climate crisis and destroying our planet. Still, we keep on investing [in] the dirty fossil fuels.. It is a physical imperative that we change course, that we divest... It is also a moral imperative. Our own brothers and sisters around the world are already suffering due to the climate crisis, and we cannot push them to greater sufferings... It is also a theological imperative. Earth is God's creation entrusted to our stewardship. We need to take care of God's creation. So let us be courageous. Let us divest."

Salesian Fr. Joshtrom Kureethadam, head of Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development's ecology and creation sector, May 19th 2021

"Given the harm that the production and consumption of fossil fuels is causing to the environment and to populations in low-income countries, it was not right to profit from investment in these companies ... "Disinvestment is a sign that justice demands that we must move away from fossil fuels."

Bishop Bill Nolan of Galloway, head of the Scottish Bishops' Conference October 26th 2021¹

The planet already is 1.2°C hotter, yet new fossil fuel projects every day accelerate our race towards the precipice. Enough is enough. All new exploration and production of coal, oil, and gas must immediately end, and existing production of fossil fuels must be urgently phased out... Many Catholic institutions are already divesting from fossil fuel corporations^[2] and striving towards a net zero climate impact.

Intervention of His Eminence Cardinal Michael Czerny, S.J., prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, during the Press Conference to present the Message of the Holy Father Francis on the occasion of the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation (1 September 2022), 21.07.2022

We have often plundered in order to increase our own well-being, and not even the well-being of all, but of a small group. **Now is the time for new courage in abandoning fossil fuels to accelerate the development of zero or positive impact sources of energy.**

Visit To Assisi For The Event ["Economy Of Francesco", Address Of His Holiness Pope Francis](#) - Palaeventi Santa Maria Degli Angeli (Assisi) Saturday, 24 September 2022

The world leaders who will gather for the COP28 summit in Dubai from 30 November to 12 December next must listen to science and institute a rapid and equitable transition to end the era of fossil fuel. 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

¹ During a webinar on October 28th 2021, he added : "A few years ago, when I first heard of the global movement of divestment, the feeling was, this is really just a purely symbolic thing. What difference would that make to the oil companies with their vast riches? But the movement has been growing.

"And it's always much more than something symbolic. But even then there are various arguments that are used against divesting. For instance, we do still need fossil fuels. We do need oil and gas. They keep our cars moving, and they keep our homes heated. So we are in a period of transition, so while we're in a period of transition, we do still need these oil companies to continue as before. But it's not acceptable to just continue the status quo.

"There are also arguments against the economic argument. In Scotland, for instance, up to 20 percent of our economy is based around the oil and gas industry. So people said, 'Well, it's irresponsible. What about all those jobs, and all those people?' So that was another argument that we kind of kept coming up against.

"But eventually, we realized, well, we still need oil and gas just now, we do have to transition. We do have to push towards that direction. If you're investing in these companies, then you're profiting from their activity, and it wasn't really right to be profiting from oil and gas, when we knew these things were causing such pollution to the whole environment of the Earth."

"I think it's going to get to the stage, it will be an embarrassment for any Catholic institution that hasn't divested. This has gone from a purely symbolic gesture to something much, much more than that. Because we're now advocating, and Pope Francis is advocating as well, for a complete change of lifestyle. We have to change our lifestyle. So we have to dig deep... It's just a small step, is divestment. That's where we start, but we have to make that small step."

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.

[MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION \(released in May 2023\) 1st September 2023](#)

The demands that rise up from below throughout the world, where activists from very different countries help and support one another, can end up pressuring the sources of power.

Gas and oil companies are planning new projects [...] with the aim of further increasing their production... [It] would be suicidal, for it would mean exposing all humanity, especially the poorest, to the worst impacts of climate change. [...] The necessary transition towards clean energy sources such as wind and solar energy, and the abandonment of fossil fuels, is not progressing at the necessary speed.

[...]

I cannot deny that it is necessary to be honest and recognize that the most effective solutions will not come from individual efforts alone, but above all from major political decisions on the national and international level. Nonetheless, every little bit helps, and avoiding an increase of a tenth of a degree in the global temperature would already suffice to alleviate some suffering for many people. [...] The mere fact that personal, family and community habits are changing is contributing to greater concern about the unfulfilled responsibilities of the political sectors and indignation at the lack of interest shown by the powerful. Let us realize, then, that even though this does not immediately produce a notable effect from the quantitative standpoint, we are helping to bring about large processes of transformation rising from deep within society.

[Apostolic exhortation Laudate Deum, 2023](#)

Français

- Nous savons que la technologie reposant sur les combustibles fossiles très polluants – surtout le charbon, mais aussi le pétrole et, dans une moindre mesure, le gaz – a besoin d'être remplacée, progressivement et sans retard. [...] La politique et l'entreprise réagissent avec lenteur, loin d'être à la hauteur des défis mondiaux. - *Pape François, Laudato Si' 165*
- Nous, Cardinaux, Patriarches et Évêques, lançons un appel à toutes et à tous et formulons dix propositions politiques précises. Nous appelons la COP21 [...] à élaborer de nouveaux modèles de développement et de nouveaux modes de vie compatibles avec le climat ; s'atteler aux inégalités et sortir les gens de la pauvreté. L'idée centrale est de mettre un terme à l'ère des combustibles fossiles, de faire progressivement disparaître les émissions produites par les combustibles fossiles et d'offrir à chacun l'accès à une énergie renouvelable, saine, fiable et à un prix abordable. - *Appel à la COP21 des conférences continentales des évêques*
- Les constantes explorations pour trouver de nouvelles réserves de combustible fossile sont également préoccupantes, alors que l'Accord de Paris conseille clairement de maintenir dans le sous-sol la majorité du carburant fossile. [...] La civilisation requiert de l'énergie, mais l'utilisation de l'énergie ne doit pas détruire la civilisation! *Discours du Pape François aux*

participants à la rencontre des dirigeants des grands groupes du secteur pétrolier, du gaz naturel et de l'énergie, juin 2018

- Aujourd'hui, les signes ne sont pas bons. Les investissements en combustibles fossiles continuent d'augmenter, bien que les scientifiques nous disent que les combustibles fossiles doivent rester dans le sous-sol. - *Pape François, intervention à la rencontre «climate change and new evidence from science, engineering, and policy » Mai 2019*
- "nous défendons et soutenons les campagnes de désinvestissement des entreprises extractives qui causent des dommages socio-écologiques de l'Amazonie, à commencer par les institutions ecclésiales elles-mêmes et aussi en collaboration avec d'autres Églises "
[Document final de l'Assemblée Spéciale du Synode des Évêques pour l'Amazonie](#)
- "Il faut donner aux entreprises, nationales ou internationales, qui détruisent l'Amazonie et ne respectent pas le droit des peuples autochtones au territoire avec ses frontières, à l'autodétermination et au consentement préalable, les noms qui leur correspondent : *injustice et crime*. Quand certaines entreprises, assoiffées de gain facile, s'approprient des terrains et vont jusqu'à privatiser même l'eau potable, ou bien quand les autorités donnent libre cours aux industries du bois, aux projets miniers et pétroliers, et à d'autres activités qui dévastent les forêts et polluent l'environnement, les relations économiques se transforment abusivement et deviennent un instrument qui tue." *Pape François, Exhortation Apostolique Post-Synodale "Querida Amazonia"*
- En même temps, laissons naître une saine indignation, rappelons qu'il est toujours possible de vaincre les diverses mentalités de colonisation pour construire des réseaux de solidarité et de développement. « Le défi est d'assurer une mondialisation dans la solidarité, une mondialisation sans marginalisation ». On peut trouver des alternatives d'élevage et d'agriculture durables, des énergies qui ne polluent pas, des sources de travail digne qui ne provoquent pas la destruction de l'environnement et des cultures." *Pape François, Exhortation Apostolique Post-Synodale "Querida Amazonia"*
- « Diffuser l'utilisation de critères éthiques, responsables et intégraux pour les investissements, en évitant le soutien aux entreprises nuisibles à l'écologie humaine ou sociale (par exemple l'avortement et les armes) et à l'écologie environnementale (par exemple les combustibles fossiles).
« Promouvoir des investissements socialement et écologiquement responsables, par exemple en évaluant le désinvestissement progressif du secteur des énergies fossiles » « [En Chemin Pour La Sauvegarde De La Maison Commune, 5 ans après Laudato si'](#) », par le Groupe de Travail interdicastériel du Saint-Siège sur l'écologie intégrale – page 185-186
- "Compte tenu des dommages que la production et la consommation d'énergies fossiles causent à l'environnement et aux populations des pays à faible revenu, il n'était pas juste de tirer profit des investissements dans ces entreprises... Le désinvestissement est un signe que la justice exige que nous nous éloignons des énergies fossiles. Je pense que nous arrivons au stade où ce sera embarrassant, pour toute institution catholique, de n'avoir pas désinvesti." *Mgr Bill Nolan, évêque de Galloway, président de la Conférence épiscopale écossaise*
- Les dirigeants mondiaux participant au sommet COP28, prévu à Dubaï du 30 novembre au 12 décembre de cette année, doivent écouter la science et entamer une transition rapide et équitable pour mettre fin à l'ère des combustibles fossiles. Selon les engagements de l'Accord de Paris visant à réduire le risque de réchauffement global, il est absurde de permettre la poursuite de l'exploration et de l'expansion des infrastructures liées aux combustibles fossiles. Élevons la voix pour mettre fin à cette injustice faite aux pauvres et à nos enfants, qui subiront les pires impacts du changement climatique. J'en appelle à toutes les personnes de bonne volonté pour qu'elles agissent en fonction de ces orientations concernant la société et la nature. [Message Du Pape François Pour La Journée Mondiale De Prière Pour La Sauvegarde De La Création 2023](#)

- Les revendications qui émergent d'en bas partout dans le monde, où les militants des pays les plus divers s'entraident et s'accompagnent, peuvent finir par exercer une pression sur les facteurs de pouvoir. On peut espérer qu'il en sera ainsi concernant la crise climatique. C'est pourquoi je répète que « si les citoyens ne contrôlent pas le pouvoir politique – national, régional et municipal – un contrôle des dommages sur l'environnement n'est pas possible non plus ». [...] les compagnies pétrolières et gazières ambitionnent de réaliser de nouveaux projets pour augmenter encore la production. Dire qu'il n'y a rien à espérer serait un acte suicidaire qui conduirait à exposer toute l'humanité, en particulier les plus pauvres, aux pires impacts du changement climatique. [...] la transition nécessaire vers les énergies propres comme les énergies éolienne et solaire, en abandonnant les combustibles fossiles, ne vas pas assez vite. Pape François, [*Laudate Deum* \(2023\)](#)