

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20451

November 10, 2025

Dear Mr. Secretary,

As people of faith and as leaders in the Catholic community, we write with both prayerful concern and hope as the global community prepares to convene at COP30 in Belém, Brazil. Situated in the heart of the Amazon, this summit represents more than a diplomatic meeting — it is a pivotal moral moment that calls us to a conversion of heart and to bold, collective action for the care of our common home.

As Catholic leaders, we must express our deep regret that the United States has withdrawn from the Paris Agreement and, consequently, will not be participating in the climate negotiations at COP30. In this crucial moment, we respectfully ask you to reconsider this decision. Re-engagement would demonstrate moral leadership, affirm the nation's commitment to the common good, and honor the deep values of justice, solidarity, and responsibility that have long defined our nation. COP30 offers an opportunity for the United States to lead the way in fostering a just transition to a sustainable future and economy, financing adaptation and resilience for the world's most vulnerable.

The Church teaches that creation is a gift entrusted to our care, not a possession to be exploited without regard for its integrity. As Pope Leo XIV stated at the recent Raising Hope Conference in Rome: God will ask us if we have cultivated and cared for the world that he created (cf. Gen 2:15), for the benefit of all and for future generations, and if we have taken care of our brothers and sisters (cf. Gen 4:9; Jn 13:34)."

Around the world, in dioceses, parishes, and Catholic ministries, we witness firsthand the human face of the climate crisis: families displaced by floods and fires, farmers whose livelihoods are threatened by changing weather patterns, children forced to migrate from lands their ancestors cherished, and vulnerable people everywhere who are ill from unclean air and water. At the same time, we also witness the resilience of communities who, inspired by their faith, work tirelessly for sustainable livelihoods, care for forests and waters, and protect the dignity of workers, Indigenous peoples, and the most vulnerable in every society. These efforts are beacons of hope — signs of life rooted in Gospel witness.

Please know of our prayers for you, and for all who will gather in Belém, for the courage to act together for the common good. May the Holy Spirit guide your words and decisions, so that they may reflect the truth that we are one human family, entrusted with one common home by the Lord God of all creation.

Sincerely,

Ann Hammer
Director
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

Anna Johnson
Director
North America Laudato Si Movement

Barbara Ann Brigham
Justice and Peace Coordinator
Medical Mission Sisters

Bernie Tomasso OFS
Justice and Peace Coordinator
St. Kateri Tekawitha SFO NYS Region

Br. Mark Joseph Costello, OFM Cap
Provincial Minister
Capuchin Province of St. Joseph

Brady Young
Manager of Communications
Franciscan Federation

Brother Damian Novello, OSF
Superior General
Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn

Cindy Perry
Associate Director
Franciscan Associates of the Atonement

Daniel Misleh
Executive Director
Catholic Climate Covenant

Dr. Janet Stankowski
Board President
Voices for Earth Justice

Drake Starling
Senior Government Relations Advocate
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

Elizabeth C. Hunley
Organizer
Catholic Response to Climate Change

Elvira Ramirez
Executive Director
Maryknoll Lay Missioners

Emmet Farrell
Pastor
Creation Care Ministry

Eran McCarty
Creation Care Committee Chair
St Thomas the Apostle

Fran Ludwig
Co-Chair
Boston Catholic Climate Movement

Frances Nadolny, OP
General Councilor
Dominican Sisters of Adrian

Friar Michael Heine OFM Conv.
Minister Provincial
Franciscan Friars Conventual OLA Province

Janet Broderick
Ministry Leader
Care for our Common Home Ministry at St.
John Neumann Parish

Janice Cebula
President
Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa

Jean Welch Hill
Executive Director
Washington State Catholic Conference

Jennifer Kryszak
Director
Franciscan Peace Center, Clinton, Iowa

Josie Chrosniak, HM
Justice Promoter
Sisters of the Humility of Mary Justice Office

Judy Coode
Director of Communications
Pax Christi USA

Kathryn Yanik
Director East-West Province
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, United States

Lawrence J. Hayes, O.F.M.
Provincial Minister
Franciscan Friars, Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Lisa Demler
Justice Director
School Sisters of Notre Dame, Central Pacific Province Leadership Team

Marianne Comfort
Interim Director
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team

Marilyn Kott
Justice and Peace Coordinator
The Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church

Mark Rutkowski

Founder
Laudate Deum Prayer Network for Climate Healing

Mary Elizabeth Imler
General Minister
Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart

Mary Feigen, OP
Justice Promoter
Dominican Sisters of Hope

Maurice Lange
Director
Presentation Sisters Union, USA Unit

Megan McElroy, OP
Prioress
Dominican Sisters of Grand Rapids

Monica Kleimeyer
Coordinator
Laudato Si' Circle

Pat Davis
Justice and Peace Coordinator
Presentation Sisters San Francisco, CA

Paul Lininger OFM Conv
Justice and Peace Coordinator
Conventual Franciscan Friars - OLA Province

Paul Welch
Director of Social Action Ministry
Syracuse Catholic Diocese

Peggy Comfrey, CSJ
Justice and Peace Coordinator
Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston

Peter Fallon
Chair of the Creation Care Team
Our Lady Star of the Sea

Reg McKillip
Justice and Peace Coordinator
Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa

Rev. John J. Brennan
Pastor
St. Patrick Church

Rev. Lance P. Nadeau, MM
Superior General
Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers

Rev. Vinci Halbrook-Paterson
Pastor
Spirit of Grace

Robert Christian
Editor
Millennial

S Kathy Braun
Provincial Councilor
School Sisters of St Francis, US Province

Sarah Gray
Executive Director
Marianist Social Justice Collaborative

Sharon Pollnow, CSA
General Superior
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes

Sister Beatrice Eichten, OSF
Community Minister
Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls

Sister Dorothy Ann Busowski, OBM
Assistant Provincial
Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great

Sister Eileen Gannon
Justice and Peace Coordinator
Dominican Sisters of Sparkill

Sister Eileen Marnien, SSJ
President
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Philadelphia

Sister Elizabeth Fuhr
Justice and Peace Coordinator
Sisters of St. Francis Denver CO

Sister Elizabeth Fuhr
Justice and Peace Coordinator
Sisters of St. Francis Sacred Heart Province

Sister Jean Sliwinski
Sustainability Coordinator
Felician Sisters of North America

Sister Joan Brown, OSF
Coordinator
Partnership for Earth Spirituality--New Mexico

Sister Leanne Kerschner
Leadership Team
Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, Ohio

Sister Margaret Magee
Board Member
Franciscan Action Network

Sister Sharon Havelak
Justice Promotor
Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania Ohio

Sister Teresa Houghon
President
Maryknoll Sisters of Saint Dominic

Sr Peggy Quinn, OSF
Counselor
Franciscan Sisters of Joliet, IL

Sr. Carol Anne Smith, HM
Pastoral Leader
Sisters of the Humility of Mary

Sr. Joanne Bierl MMM
Justice and Peace Coordinator
Medical Missionaries of Mary

Sr. Kathy Wiesneski
Justice and Peace Coordinator
Holy Cross Sisters

Sr. Leanne Jablonski FMI
Provincial Councilor & JPIC Coordinator
Marianist Sisters - Daughters of Mary
Immaculate, USA Unit

Sr. Rose Therese Nolta
Justice and Peace Coordinator
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters

Stella Smetanka Mericli
Convener
St. Teresa of Kolkata Parish in Pittsburgh, PA

Susan Gunn
Director
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns

Terrence Thompson
Coordinator, New Jersey Chapter
Laudato Si' Movement. New Jersey Chapter

Tiffany Lee
Executive Director
Altagracia Faith and Justice Works

Very Rev. Paul Joseph Langevin, OFM Con
Minister Provincial
Order of Friars Minor Conventual, Province of
Saint Bonaventure

Christine Bohmer Stewart
Justice and Peace Coordinator
Spiritus Marianist Lay Community