



MARYKNOLL OFFICE FOR GLOBAL CONCERNS

Peace, Social Justice and Integrity of Creation

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Maryknoll Father Patrick Okok Comments on COP30

WASHINGTON, DC – Maryknoll Fr. Patrick Okok made the following comments on his experience of attending the UN Climate Change Conference in Belem, Brazil, November 10-21, 2025.

“My experience at COP 30 was an eye opener: seeing many nations come together to respond to the rising temperatures due to emissions. This is the first official UN conference that I have attended. I found the terminologies used during the conference to be challenging and this pushed me to look up the previous documents that were being quoted. Previous sessions concluded that we had enough data to show that our common home is warming up at an alarming rate and that our response is not matching up. Many leaders from the Global South at COP30 emphasized the fact that the countries that produce the the least amounts of pollution suffer the most. They highlighted the urgency to financially support the Global South not to follow the steps of polluters in the Global North. The bottom line is we all see the problem but, unfortunately, we are not being aggressive enough in addressing it. My hope is that all nations see the urgency of the need to respond and not wait to see what country A or B is doing before acting.

The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns (MOGC) represents Maryknoll missionaries, who are Catholic men and women serving in impoverished communities around the world. The MOGC provides analysis and advocacy on issues of justice, peace and the integrity of creation that affect the countries and communities where Maryknoll missionaries serve.

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