



Justice Team Interim Director greets Pope Leo from the Sisters of Mercy

Mercy Participates in Raising Hope Conference

Pope Leo called people “to take an active role in political decision-making at national, regional and local levels” to address the damage done to the environment, at a conference outside Rome, Italy, attended by a member of the Mercy Justice Team.

Marianne Comfort participated as a member of the board of the Laudato Si Movement, which organized the event. She was among a few dozen people who personally welcomed the pope as he entered the conference venue, and she greeted him from the Sisters of Mercy.

The Raising Hope conference Oct. 1-3 celebrated the 10th anniversary of the encyclical *Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home*. Speakers included Church and government leaders and environmental activists.

Pope Leo reiterated the encouragement in *Laudato Si’* to “listen to the cry of the earth and the poor.” “We must shift from collecting data to caring; and from environmental discourse to an ecological conversion that transforms both personal and communal lifestyles,” he said.

At the end of the conference, participants made commitments to work with others to promote ecological conversion, sustainable lifestyles and political action. Those commitments will be delivered to COP 30, the international climate talks to be held in the Amazon rainforest of Brazil next month, as additions to the commitments that nations are charged with bringing there.

You may watch [here](#) a Vatican News report on the conference that includes snippets of the pope's address, and read the full speech [here](#).