

COP28@Home

TOGETHER FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

PRAYER GUIDE



COP28 PRAYER

God,
All-merciful Love,
Creator of all that is,
you created and keep creating
the world as a beautiful
process of relatedness.
Give us and all participants of COP28
genuine love for the world
and the consciousness of its profound goodness.

God,
All-merciful Love,
Firstborn of the New Creation,
you redeemed and keep redeeming
this Creation from within,
and so make possible our conversion to life.
Give us and all participants of COP28
the understanding of the world's brokenness
and of your constant healing effort.

God,
All-merciful Love,
Breath of life,
you promised and keep promising
the Transfiguration of all wounds
and the Resurrection of your crucified Creation.
Give us and all participants of COP28
your creative Spirit, hope-giving renewer of the world,
to contribute courageously to your New Creation.

Amen.



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Welcome to the COP28 Prayer Guide. This is a resource to assist you in praying for the success of the upcoming 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) in Dubai, and to allow you to explore the themes of the conference on a spiritual level.

This guide is part of COP28@Home campaign, your gateway to COP28 where world leaders unite for two weeks of crucial climate discussions. This UN conference is pivotal, given the urgency the entire world is experiencing in regards climate change. Pope Francis's recent apostolic exhortation Laudate Deum underscores the significance of COP28 in shaping a sustainable future for all.

This guide has been prepared by two young Jesuits who are passionate about Climate Justice, Xavier de Bénazé SJ and Fabian Moos SJ, who invite you to accompany them in the themes of the conference, day by day.

Keep up to date with the campaign on JESC's [webpage](http://www.jesc.eu) (www.jesc.eu) for more ways to get involved. COP28@Home has been prepared jointly by JESC, Jesuit Missions UK and the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice and seeks to inform and advocate on important climate issues up to and during the upcoming COP28.



Enjoy!

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

FOR THE SUNDAY MASSES

SUNDAY 19TH OF NOVEMBER



(Mt 25,14-30 - the parable of the talents)

Heavenly Father, on 30th of November, this year's Climate Conference of the United Nations will begin in Dubai- the so-called COP28. We ask you that the political leaders gathered for this occasion be guided by your spirit, so that, like the good servants, they don't act out of fear for themselves, but courageously and creatively, responding to the urgency of climate justice. Let us pray to the Lord.

SUNDAY 26TH OF NOVEMBER



(Feast of Christ King, Mt 25,31-46)

Heavenly Father, on 30th of November, this year's Climate Conference of the United Nations will begin in Dubai, the so-called COP28. We ask you to guide the political leaders gathered for this occasion so that they may be moved by the suffering of the poor as well as today's and tomorrow's victims of climate injustice. Inspire them to take action for the poorest. Let us pray to the Lord.

SUNDAY 3RD OF DECEMBER



(1st Sunday of Advent, Mark 13,33-37, Take ye heed, watch and pray. For ye know not when the time is.)

Heavenly Father, since last Thursday, COP28 has been taking place in Dubai. Let us all be open to perceive the signs of the times, to pray and to act according to the urgency of climate justice. We especially ask you to enlighten the political leaders in Dubai. Let us pray to the Lord.

SUNDAY 10TH OF DECEMBER



(Second Sunday of Advent, Mark 1,1-8, John the Baptist)

Heavenly Father, since 30th of November, COP28 is taking place in Dubai. Let us pray for all those climate activists who raise their voices in the desert of global politics, and ask for substantial change. Fill them with humble and active hope, let their activism bear fruit in our hearts, and in the hearts of the political leaders in Dubai. Let us pray to the Lord.

30 November: Opening

(LAUDATO SI', 15)

"It is my hope that this Encyclical Letter [...] can help us to acknowledge the appeal, immensity and urgency of the challenge we face."

(LAUDATO SI', 169)

"Reducing greenhouse gases requires honesty, courage and responsibility, above all on the part of those countries which are more powerful and pollute the most. [...] International negotiations cannot make significant progress due to positions taken by countries which place their national interests above the global common good. Those who will have to suffer the consequences of what we are trying to hide will not forget this failure of conscience and responsibility. Even as this Encyclical was being prepared, the debate was intensifying. We believers cannot fail to ask God for a positive outcome to the present discussions, so that future generations will not have to suffer the effects of our ill-advised delays."

Today, COP28 is beginning. It is one more attempt for a giant step further on global climate action, and it will be dealing with a large number of topics related to the mitigation of the climate crisis, as well as to adapt to what cannot be prevented any more. What is my hope for this year's climate conference? That it will not only lead to more words and papers, but to genuine action and financial support of the richer countries in favour of the common good, in favour of today's and tomorrow's poorest, and in favour of Mother Earth, on whom we depend so much. That, maybe, by acknowledging the immensity and urgency of the challenge, the world's political leaders may also see its appeal, because it could be the beginning of a new worldwide, courageous action plan, and a realization of true solidarity, by which they could make history. This is what I hope for - not because it is very realistic, but because I refuse to see the Human Being as unable to do the right thing, even when the counterforces are extremely strong.

God,
we thank you for the beauty of your Creation,
for the Earth that nourishes us,
for plants and animals that spread your life so joyfully,
for the air which refreshes our lungs at any moment,
and for our human capacity to perceive and love you in them,
to take care of them and to hope for their and our future.
We ask you to bless COP28
and to inspire the political leaders gathered in Dubai
so that they may not be deaf to our World's suffering,
but contribute creatively and decisively to a hope-filled future.
Amen.

1ST AND 2ND DECEMBER: WORLD CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT

1 December

(LAUDATO SI', 53)

"The problem is that we still lack the culture needed to confront this crisis. We lack leadership capable of striking out on new paths and meeting the needs of the present with concern for all and without prejudice towards coming generations. The establishment of a legal framework which can set clear boundaries and ensure the protection of ecosystems has become indispensable; otherwise, the new power structures based on the techno-economic paradigm may overwhelm not only our politics but also freedom and justice."

"We still lack the culture needed to confront this crisis:"
Here is the challenge we face. So many times we avoid the ecological and social crisis. And when we dare to face the ongoing collapses, as persons and political communities, we'd like to find an easy, funny and cheap solution. In those times, technology, Green Technology, might appear to us as THE solution. A kind of magic. But this will not solve the crisis. Technology might help but we need a deeper change. We need a deep cultural change, one that takes us out of a predatory mindset to a caring love of this Creation. One that takes us out of the consumerist slavery to a joyful simplicity of life. I fear COP28 will pursue the mirage of Green Growth. But I pray to the Holy Spirit that His powerful breath might blow from the desert to unveil this risk of lies and idolatry, and invite all negotiators to a real ecological conversion.

Holy Spirit,
You called Jesus to the desert after His
Baptism.
You led Your People out of Egypt, through the
desert.
You spoke to Elijah's heart in a gentle breeze.
Come, invite us all, and summon the COP28
negotiators to listen to Your voice.
That we might be bold enough to answer Your
call, to get up, to quit our consumerist slavery,
and to join You in a simple life where our
hearts are empty of "stuff" and so ready to
welcome You.

2 December

(LAUDATO SI', 165 & 173)

"Although the post-industrial period may well be remembered as one of the most irresponsible in history, nonetheless there is reason to hope that humanity at the dawn of the twenty-first century will be remembered for having generously shouldered its grave responsibilities. [...] Enforceable international agreements are urgently needed, since local authorities are not always capable of effective intervention. Relations between states must be respectful of each other's sovereignty, but must also lay down mutually agreed means of averting regional disasters which would eventually affect everyone. Global regulatory norms are needed to impose obligations and prevent unacceptable actions, for example, when powerful companies or countries dump contaminated waste or offshore polluting industries in other countries."

Every one of us can act. In rich countries, like France, it is considered that each one of us already has the power to make 30% of the progress we need in his hands. There is hope. But we absolutely need actions at political levels. Local, regional, national, continental, and global levels. Without these common decisions and actions, we'll fall short. It's precisely the COP28 objective to allow ambitious common decisions. Like the COP21 that led to the Paris Agreement and its global objective of keeping the temperature rise under 2°C, as close as we can to +1.5°C. This is what I pray for: that COP28 might foster honest dialogues and real human encounters in order to allow clear decisions that will take us quickly out of fossil fuel energies, an indispensable path toward the Paris Agreement objective.

Heavenly Father,
You created us as human brothers and sisters,
and as creatures among fellow creatures.
Strengthen in us this deep feeling of universal
fraternity, that our leaders might themselves
exchange as brothers and sisters.
Based on these fraternal dialogues, we pray
that they might really take care of our common
home, Your Creation and gift.

3 DECEMBER: HEALTH/RELIEF, RECOVER, AND PEACE

(LAUDATO SI', 48)

"The human environment and the natural environment deteriorate together; we cannot adequately combat environmental degradation unless we attend to causes related to human and social degradation. In fact, the deterioration of the environment and of society affects the most vulnerable people on the planet: 'Both everyday experience and scientific research show that the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest'. For example, the depletion of fishing reserves especially hurts small fishing communities without the means to replace those resources; water pollution particularly affects the poor who cannot buy bottled water; and rises in the sea level mainly affect impoverished coastal populations who have nowhere else to go. The impact of present imbalances is also seen in the premature death of many of the poor, in conflicts sparked by the shortage of resources, and in any number of other problems which are insufficiently represented on global agendas."

It is the poorest communities which suffer the most from climate-related disasters. These catastrophes will constantly increase in the next decades. More and more political energy and international help will be needed to deal with multiple crises in these regions, to maintain or build peace, or at least provide some relief. Today's discussions at COP28 are centred around strategies which can build resilience for these vulnerable communities.

I live in a very rich country. Poverty exists here as well, of course, but many of our discussions seem so disconnected to me. Many of the fears present in public are about losing something we cannot imagine living without, such as the "liberty" to drive as fast we want on our highways. But sometimes we forget that in other parts of the world, the daily struggle is about surviving and about very basic needs such as food, shelter, or health. We also forget that future generations will only have any liberty if we accept to limit some of ours - in an act of responsibility and love like parents who accept to renounce some of their wishes and needs for the sake of their children.

Let us pray for today's negotiations. May they dare to look at global health and peace and to decide in favour of the suffering.

Jesus,
You who healed the invalid at the pool of Bethesda (John 5,1-9)
after 38 years of suffering,
listening to his suffering and asking for his needs,
enlighten the hearts and minds of the COP28 negotiators
so that they may progress in building peace and resilience for vulnerable communities around the world.
Help us all join Your effort
by acting in favour of the suffering,
however small our action may be.

4TH DECEMBER: FINANCE/TRADE/GENDER EQUALITY/ACCOUNTABILITY

(LAUDATO SI', 54)

"It is remarkable how weak international political responses have been. The failure of global summits on the environment make it plain that our politics are subject to technology and finance. There are too many special interests, and economic interests easily end up trumping the common good and manipulating information so that their own plans will not be affected. [...] The alliance between the economy and technology ends up sidelining anything unrelated to its immediate interests. Consequently the most one can expect is superficial rhetoric, sporadic acts of philanthropy and perfunctory expressions of concern for the environment, whereas any genuine attempt by groups within society to introduce change is viewed as a nuisance based on romantic illusions or an obstacle to be circumvented."

Sometimes, when I speak with Christian brothers and sisters, they are afraid that "all this ecology might bring us back to paganism, worshiping trees and sources."

I've seen people embracing trees. I've never seen people worshipping trees.

But what I have seen is people worshipping Money and Profit. Not once. Not twice. Everyday. This is the idolatry of our 21st century. This is what we should fight against. In us, and around us, in the structures of sin that enclose our consumerist and productivist societies.

Jesus,

You told us "No one can serve two masters.

Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." (Mt 6, 24)

Mammon, the god of Money, is the only idol you explicitly mention and clearly warn us against.

Give us the discernment, we need to acknowledge our idolatry and really choose You as our Lord and Savior.

And as today our leaders speak of finance in COP28, remind them of the popular saying:

"Money is a good servant, but a bad master."

5TH DECEMBER: ENERGY, INDUSTRY, AND TRANSITION

(LAUDATE DEUM, 37-38)

"More than saving the old multilateralism, it appears that the current challenge is to reconfigure and recreate it, taking into account the new world situation. I invite you to recognize that 'many groups and organizations within civil society help to compensate for the shortcomings of the international community, its lack of coordination in complex situations, and its lack of attention to fundamental human rights'. For example, the Ottawa Process against the use, production and manufacture of antipersonnel mines is one example that shows how civil society with its organizations is capable of creating effective dynamics that the United Nations cannot. In this way, the principle of subsidiarity is applied also to the global-local relationship.

In the medium-term, globalization favours spontaneous cultural interchanges, greater mutual knowledge and processes of integration of peoples, which end up provoking a multilateralism 'from below' and not simply one determined by the elites of power. 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. It is to be hoped that this will happen with respect to the climate crisis. For this reason, I reiterate that 'unless citizens control political power – national, regional and municipal – it will not be possible to control damage to the environment'."

Today, COP28 will discuss the transition towards renewable energy and a sustainable industry. The task is enormous and the resistance extremely strong, because "Big Finance" is still not divesting from fossil energy and because some of the most powerful lobbies still prevent effectively any stronger regulation or direction of the market which would help it develop in the sense of a real, massive and quick decarbonization.

Pope Francis, in his recent apostolic letter *Laudate Deum*, the "part two" of *Laudato Si'* published only on the 4th of October this year, shares his vision of a "multilateralism from below" which could produce more and more pressure on national and international legislation and decision. Isn't this something the Church could foster thanks to its global networks and its deep knowledge of so many local and international issues? The "Ottawa Process" was successful thanks to a huge global alliance, among the founders and supporters of which were also Church organisations.

How could these networks contribute to coordinated global action and help to transform industries and markets in a "radical" way (going to the roots of the problems)? I think that one question is crucial for each one of us: How can I personally contribute to desirable change? Change will come, by design or by disaster. The question is where my energy (and money) should go. According to each one's responsibility in society, the response will be quite different. But it will often have to do with joining, supporting, making possible or founding collective initiatives "from below."

Holy Spirit,
creative force in all that is,
prophetic wisdom of the people,
constant change from below -
I ask you to gather the human
hope energy
and to direct it towards God's
kingdom.
Help us see your work and rejoice
in it,
and make us more and more able
to join it.

6TH DECEMBER: MULTILEVEL ACTION, URBANIZATION, AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT/TRANSPORT

(LAUDATO SI', 150)

"Given the interrelationship between living space and human behaviour, those who design buildings, neighbourhoods, public spaces and cities, ought to draw on the various disciplines which help us to understand people's thought processes, symbolic language and ways of acting. It is not enough to seek the beauty of design. More precious still is the service we offer to another kind of beauty: people's quality of life, their adaptation to the environment, encounter and mutual assistance. Here too, we see how important it is that urban planning always take into consideration the views of those who will live in these areas."

When I first read Laudato si', I was surprised that the Pope dedicated most of the "ecology of daily life" passage to comments around urban life and poor cities. It took me some time and conversations to understand that here, as in many other parts of the encyclical, we can touch the Pope's prayer. As Bishop of Buenos Aires, Cardinal Bergoglio loved visiting the poor favelas of his big capital city. Certainly, he encountered God in these remote and forgotten houses. So my surprise became a praise and a prayer. Happy that the Pope shares with me his personal way to encounter Jesus-Christ, I pray that I may also feel invited to spend time with poor brothers and sisters. Not first to help them, but to let them share with me something of their wisdom, of their own "ecology of daily life."

And today I pray that some of our leaders in Dubai might do like Cardinal Bergoglio; that they dare to go out of their rich hotels and sumptuous conference centres in order to meet with normal people, and even excluded people. This is an indispensable path.

Jesus,
You were always ready to meet with excluded people on the road: lepers, sick, prostitutes, publicans, women, kids...
Open my heart that I may see you in the sacrament of the poor.
Open the ears of the COP28 leaders, that they might hear "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor!" (LS 49)

7TH DECEMBER: REST

(LAUDATO SI', 237)

"We tend to demean contemplative rest as something unproductive and unnecessary, but this is to do away with the very thing which is most important about work: its meaning. We are called to include in our work a dimension of receptivity and gratuity, which is quite different from mere inactivity. Rather, it is another way of working, which forms part of our very essence. It protects human action from becoming empty activism; it also prevents that unfettered greed and sense of isolation which make us seek personal gain to the detriment of all else. The law of weekly rest forbade work on the seventh day, 'so that your ox and your donkey may have rest, and the son of your maidservant, and the stranger, may be refreshed' (Ex 23:12). Rest opens our eyes to the larger picture and gives us renewed sensitivity to the rights of others."

It is very wise that the political leaders and negotiators take this rest day. They are half way through and have the opportunity to recharge their batteries, to step back and reflect, and to consolidate the achievements. In my personal life, Pope Francis' words resonate a lot. I have often experienced that when I don't allow myself enough moments of rest, gratuity, and contemplation, I easily get stuck in the "Martha mode" and have more and more difficulty to get back to "Mary mode" (cf. Lk 10,38-42). The former is about effectively checking the boxes of our to-do lists (like the big "save the world" one), the latter about being rather than doing and about perceiving attentively. For me, this can be identifiable on a walk in our garden, when I listen to some precious music, or in moments of silent prayer. Both modes are necessary and complementary, but Mary mode is indispensable for real encounters, for deep reflection, and for inner change. It sometimes helps me to see that it is God who saves the world; and he asks me not only to be part of his task force, but also a guest of his dinner party, organised by some other celebration committee.

Heavenly Father,
please give us the rest we need.
Nourish our love,
our hope
and our faith
and let us again
be present to the present of life.
Grant that all participants at COP28
be open to the gentle breeze of your voice
in the midst of all the shouting
of the powerful.

After one week of following in your prayer the COP28 topics, which one moved you the most? And what has been your last moment of "contemplative rest"?

8TH DECEMBER: YOUTH, CHILDREN, EDUCATION, AND SKILLS

(LAUDATO SI', 159)

"Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realise that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others. Since the world has been given to us, we can no longer view reality in a purely utilitarian way, in which efficiency and productivity are entirely geared to our individual benefit. Intergenerational solidarity is not optional, but rather a basic question of justice, since the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us.

I've heard people, adults, educators, who were afraid "young people [...] are so afraid of the future, they don't want kids anymore." And they try to find a cure for this grave disease.

It is true, this is a very grave question. But there will be no magic pill to solve it.

The only cure I know is action. Not greenwashing claims and false technological promises. True and concrete actions today, undertaken at the profound levels we need.

I've heard professors and students asking for only one thing: coherence between words and deeds. I think they got the good word: "coherence." If put in practice, it will change the future. A future where people will be happy to give birth and be part of the transcendent miracle of Life.

Will "coherence" be a key word at COP28?

God,

You take care of us like a father.

You love us like a mother.

We are your children.

Educate us, that we align our minds, our hearts and our arms. Help us to answer the call Your

Son: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

And as COP28 is unfolding, help our leaders to be coherent between their words and their deeds, so that we may protect our common home, this unique place You gave us to love one another.

9TH DECEMBER: NATURE, LAND USE, AND OCEANS

(LAUDATO SI', 40)

"Oceans not only contain the bulk of our planet's water supply, but also most of the immense variety of living creatures, many of them still unknown to us and threatened for various reasons. What is more, marine life in rivers, lakes, seas and oceans, which feeds a great part of the world's population, is affected by uncontrolled fishing, leading to a drastic depletion of certain species. Selective forms of fishing which discard much of what they collect continue unabated. Particularly threatened are marine organisms which we tend to overlook, like some forms of plankton; they represent a significant element in the ocean food chain, and species used for our food ultimately depend on them."

(LAUDATO SI', 174)

"Let us also mention the system of governance of the oceans. International and regional conventions do exist, but fragmentation and the lack of strict mechanisms of regulation, control and penalization end up undermining these efforts. The growing problem of marine waste and the protection of the open seas represent particular challenges. What is needed, in effect, is an agreement on systems of governance for the whole range of so-called 'global commons'."

The ocean covers more than 70 % of our planet's surface. 80 % of it still hasn't been explored in detail. The average depth of the ocean is 3.7 km. We know that the vast majority of marine species are still undiscovered, even if 2 000 new species are currently added to the official register every year. 20% of marine species are at risk of distinction, many of them probably because of climate induced changes.

I grew up in the interior of Europe, very far from seas and oceans. But when I lived for one year on the French side of the Channel, I fell in love with the sea shore, with this huge amount of water, its waves, seagulls, and winds. I often walked along the coast, contemplating the sea, this mysterious being, which is inseparable by its nature from the Atlantic and from all the oceans on Earth. Since I never did any studies in (marine) biology, it felt like a strange macro-organism, a black box full of life and danger, mysterium fascinatum et tremendum (an alluring and scary mystery). My little knowledge about oceans is like an image for Human existence on this planet: dependent on a system of ecosystems we still largely ignore, we alter it dangerously. This at least we manage to understand lately. We and so many other species cannot live on this planet without healthy oceans. Caring for the oceans is one of the most important acts of "political love" today's leaders can realise.

Cosmic Christ,
Risen Lord present in the midst of _____
this crucified Creation,
make us know, love and care for _____
the Ocean,
sacrament of your baptismal blessing,
and for all its beings.
Move the hearts of the COP 28 negotiators
so that nature-based solutions are found _____
in order to protect and bless
this cradle of life
on our path towards your new Creation
where you will be all in all.

10TH DECEMBER: FOOD, AGRICULTURE, AND WATER

(LAUDATO SI', 129)

"In order to continue providing employment, it is imperative to promote an economy which favours productive diversity and business creativity. For example, there is a great variety of small-scale food production systems which feed the greater part of the world's peoples, using a modest amount of land and producing less waste, be it in small agricultural parcels, in orchards and gardens, hunting and wild harvesting or local fishing."

I love gardening. Spending time in the midst of so many creatures, learning from the soil, playing with the sun, the rain, and the winds... What a blessing! I think it is the root of my first vocation as an agro-engineer.

On this path, I was fortunate enough to meet extraordinary people, very diverse but united in their love of their land: farmers.

Unfortunately, most of the time, they are neglected by powerful people and big organisations. They don't make money like Tesla or Google.

I dream that COP28 leaders might today go out of their offices to spend time in oasis gardens in the United Arab Emirates. I'm sure they would meet farmers there, with their own way of growing fruits and vegetables, but with this deep wisdom of people connected to the land. These oasis conversations would certainly change the output of the negotiations!

Holy Spirit,

You're present in every creature. You give life to all that exists.

Adam and Eve, when they received the mission to "take care" of the Eden garden, were able to feel Your presence among the creatures.

Help all the farmers and people who still "take care" of the Earth garden to listen to Your voice.

And, please, visit the hearts of the COP28 negotiators in order to remind them of their vocations as gardeners of Your Creation.

11TH AND 12TH DECEMBER: FINAL NEGOTIATIONS

11 December

(LAUDATO DEUM, 54)

"If we are confident in the capacity of human beings to transcend their petty interests and to think in bigger terms, we can keep hoping that COP28 will allow for a decisive acceleration of energy transition, with effective commitments subject to ongoing monitoring. This Conference can represent a change of direction, showing that everything done since 1992 was in fact serious and worth the effort, or else it will be a great disappointment and jeopardise whatever good has been achieved thus far."

(LAUDATO DEUM, 60)

"May those taking part in the Conference be strategists capable of considering the common good and the future of their children, more than the short-term interests of certain countries or businesses. In this way, may they demonstrate the nobility of politics and not its shame. To the powerful, I can only repeat this question: 'What would induce anyone, at this stage, to hold on to power, only to be remembered for their inability to take action when it was urgent and necessary to do so?'"

The Pope dared to communicate his ambitious expectations towards COP28. Hundreds of NGOs, representatives of poor countries suffering from the consequences of the climate catastrophe, and many activists from all around the world did the same. Let us join their hope and accompany these last two days of negotiations with our prayer. Not because of blind optimism, but out of lucid, active, and others-centred hope. I believe that our love and hope will bear fruit, even if the crucifixion of creation will still go on for a while. Conversion is always possible. A prophetic existence is always possible. And shouldn't the role of us, Christians be to keep open and gently widen the possible, because we live out of faith and out of the belief that in Jesus' resurrection, the impossible once surprisingly became possible?

The probable knocks at my door and opens it, asking, unembarrassed, for my consent and money. Shocked by such demand, the desirable stops our conversation and hides in the back room. Only the possible stays here with me and, filled with the fruit of our discussions, confronts the probable with what he's never heard of. And to my surprise, stepping back a bit, the probable is slightly bending to one side, declaring to accept some of our conditions.

Holy Spirit, let the final negotiations of COP28 bear fruit in concrete, effective commitments for a quick, drastic, and just energy transition as well as adaptation, and loss and damage measures for those most affected by the climate catastrophe. Let us always live out of hope for the world and for ourselves.

12 December

(LAUDATO SI', 246)

"God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live."

I write this reflection without any idea of what will come out of COP28. I must say I'm quite sceptical. But I recently met someone very close to Pope Francis who told me that the Pope said to his collaborators that it was too late to be sceptical. The situation is worsening every day. And it will worsen more if nothing is done. Therefore, we can't neglect even the smallest opportunity.

I can understand that this may sound foolish to some ears. But hope is foolish, and I prefer hope to despair. I thus decided to join this common project of praying for COP28, and to share with you my prayers during the last 13 days. This is my offer to you. This is my offer to God. He will do what is just, and He will walk with us on this path:

"I remain confident of this:

I will see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord;

be strong and take heart

and wait for the Lord." (Psalm 27, 13-14)

Jesus,

You, the Crucified and the Risen Lord,
You came on this Earth, in the midst of Your
Creation, to tell us the Good News: Your
Father's love is eternal. And through Your
death and resurrection, You came to share this
eternal love and life with us.

Send me, send us, send the people coming
back from COP28, on the ways of this suffering
Creation. That we might share around us
something of Your love, something of eternal
life for today.

This is the hope we need, the only daily bread
that will give us Your life.

Open our hearts to receive it from you
everyday.

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