



August 22, 2019

WE RAISE OUR VOICE FOR THE AMAZON

Before the horrible conflagration that consume huge areas in Alaska, Greenland, Siberia, Canarias Islands and particularly in the Amazon, the Bishops from Latin America en the Caribbean want to express our deep concern about the seriousness of this tragedy, that is not only of local impact, not even regional, but of planetary proportions.

The hope by the nearby of the Synod for the Amazon, called by Pope Francis, is turned into deep sorrow because of this tremendous natural tragedy. To our brother indigenous people living in that beloved rainforest, we express our closeness and unite our voices to yours to shout to the world for solidarity and prompt attention to this devastation.

Already the Synod Work Instrument warns prophetically: “In the Amazon rainforest, of vital importance to the planet, a deep crisis was triggered by a prolonged human intervention, where a 'discard culture' predominates (LS 16) and a extractivist mentality. The Amazon is a region with a rich biodiversity, which is multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious, a mirror of all humanity that, in defense of life, demands structural and personal changes of all human beings, States and the Church. This reality goes beyond the strictly ecclesiastical field of the Amazon, because it focuses on the universal Church and also on the future of the entire planet” (Instrumentum laboris for the synod of the Amazon, Preamble).

We urge the governments of the Amazon countries, especially Brazil and Bolivia, the United Nations and the international community to take serious measures to save the lungs of the world. What happens to the Amazon is not just a local issue but of global reach. If the Amazon suffers, the world suffers.

Recalling the words of Pope Francis, we would like to “ask, please, all those who occupy positions of responsibility in the economic, political, social field, all



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men and women of good will: [that] we be custodians of creation, of God's design inscribed in nature, guardians of the other, of the environment; do not allow the signs of destruction and death accompany the path of this our world" (Homily of the beginning of the Petrine ministry, March 19th, 2013).

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