

## Key Messages from Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation LAUDATE DEUM – October 4, 2023



***“Our responses have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point.” (LD 2)***

***“This is a global social issue and one intimately related to the dignity of human life.” (LD 3)***

***Signs we cannot deny:*** “Despite all attempts to deny, conceal, gloss over or relativize the issue, the signs of climate change are here and increasingly evident. No one can ignore the fact that in recent years we have witnessed extreme weather phenomena, frequent periods of unusual heat, drought and other cries of protest on the part of the earth that are only a few palpable expressions of a silent disease that affects everyone.” (LD 5)

***Human causes and lack of concern:*** “It is no longer possible to doubt the human — “anthropic” — origin of climate change.” (LD 10) “In the last fifty years the temperature has risen at an unprecedented speed, greater than any time over the past two thousand years.” (LD 12) “I feel obliged to make these clarifications, which may appear obvious, because of certain dismissive and scarcely reasonable opinions that I encounter, **even within the Catholic Church.**” (LD 14)

***On the energy transition and fossil fuels:*** “Fossil fuels still provide 80% of the world’s energy, and their use continues to increase.” (LD 50) “The necessary transition towards clean energy sources such as wind and solar energy, and the abandonment of fossil fuels, is not progressing at the necessary speed.” (LD 55)

***A need for an effective global focus on the common good:*** “The most effective solutions will not come from individual efforts alone, but above all from major political decisions on the national and international level.” (LD 69)

***A call to serious action:*** “Efforts by households to reduce pollution and waste, and to consume with prudence, are creating a new culture. The mere fact that personal, family and community habits are changing is contributing to greater concern about the unfulfilled responsibilities of the political sectors and indignation at the lack of interest shown by the powerful.” (LD 71) “If we consider that emissions per individual in the United States are about two times greater than those of individuals living in China, and about seven times greater than the average of the poorest countries, we can state that a broad change in the irresponsible lifestyle connected with the Western model would have a significant long-term impact. As a result, along with indispensable political decisions, we would be making progress along the way to genuine care for one another.” (LD 72) Read the full text of Laudate Deum here:

[https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html)