Join brothers and sisters who are committed to peace and ecological preservation from all religious traditions around the world as we continue the legacy of Pope Francis and Sheikh Ahmad Muhammad Al-Tayeb, the Grand Imam of al-Azhar, in this biennial, international, interfaith conference.

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Journey with us!

Walking Together in the Light of Fratelli Tutti and Laudato Si’

2-4 FEBRUARY 2023
Hub of the Americas, Day 1
Thursday, February 2

9-11 AM Pacific Standard Time (PST)
Panel – Some Effective Strategies for Addressing Climate Change

Moderator: Paz Artaza-Regan, Program Manager, Creation Care Teams, Catholic Climate Covenant

"Climate Change in an Aging Society: Strategies for Hope." Harry R. Moody, PhD, Visiting Faculty, Fielding Graduate University.

"Fratelli Tutti & Laudato Si' for Generation Z: A Story on Youth Mobilization." Kayla S. Jacobs, Program Manager of Youth Mobilization, Catholic Climate Covenant

“Crisis Affected Women and Climate Change in North West/South West Cameroon.” Ngo Abdulai Banfoyha, Founder and Executive Director of Hope for a Better Future in Cameroon (H4BF), an NGO with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
“Responding to the Environmental and Societal Challenges of Today: One Catholic Group’s Initiative to Increase Individual and Family Laudato Si’ Successes”

Celine Woznica holds a master’s and doctorate in public health from the University of Illinois at Chicago. After over 40 years of public health efforts on a global and local level, Celine now teaches public health at a local university.

Marilyn Kott is a lay Catholic who participates in or leads groups who act and advocate on behalf of the environment and economically disadvantaged persons and families. Her formal education includes master’s degrees in national resourcing strategy, and in management. Her professional background includes government military service, and ministry as a Catholic missionary in Brazil.

The presenters are founders of the Maryknoll Affiliate Laudato Si’ Working Group. The group has been creating a user-friendly program to guide individuals and families becoming more environmentally sustainable in the spirit of Laudato Si’.

1-2:30 PM (PST)
Voices of Women: Building Human Solidarity

“Building Human Solidarity: The Voices of Women of Faith.” Azza Karam, Secretary General, Religions for Peace

“Hearing Women's Voices in Jewish Sacred Text.” Rabbi Ilana Goldhaben-Gordon, Associate Rabbi and Director of School, Beth Jacob Synagogue, Redwood City, CA
3-5 PM (PST)
Immigration at the Southern Border of the US

Moderator: Mary Ryan-Hotchkiss, PhD, Peace and Justice Activist, Maryknoll Affiliate, co-editor of the Affiliate newsletter, the Not So Far Afield

“God’s Call to Radical Hospitality.” Deirdre Griffin SSJ, Esq., Sister of Saint Joseph, Maryknoll Lay Missioner, Volunteer Attorney, Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center (LAIAC) and Annunciation House.

“A Tip of the Iceberg, why immigration at the US border is not the real issue.” Heidi Cerneka, Maryknoll Lay Missioner, immigration attorney.

“The Roots of Compassion in Islam: The Commitment to Displaced Humanity.” Dr. Anthony Pino, Instructor of English, Composition, Literature and Critical Thinking; published poet and writer.

“Undocumented Immigrants in Oakland: ‘We Live in a Country that Hates Us, but Benefits from Our Labor. We Belong Here.’” Katharine Davies Samway, Professor Emerita, San José State University; writer; and freelance reporter.
Hub of the Americas, Day 2
Friday, February 3

5:30-7:00 AM (PST)
Global Recap of Day 1 for all of the Hubs

Gerald Grudzen, President of Global Ministries University

Marita Grudzen, Faculty, Global Ministries University

10:00 -12 noon (PST)
Pathways to a Just Peace

Moderator: Rev. Robert Dueweke, OSA, Augustinian Priest Serving in Appalachia, former Missionary in Peru, Past Augustinian Representative at the United Nations, Consultant to Bishop John Stowe

“The Essentials of a Just Peace in Catholic Social Teachings.” Bishop John Stowe, Order of Friars Minor Conventual, is the third bishop of the Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky. He serves as bishop president of Pax Christi.
“My Journey with CPT and Witness of Strong Courageous Women All Over the World.” Rosemarie Milazzo, Maryknoll Missioner in East Africa, and Member of Christian Peacemaker Teams, using the power of nonviolence in their own lives and in the world. She has worked with them in Northern Canada, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kurdistan Iraq and in refugee camps around the world.

12 noon (PST)
Global Laudato Si’ Movement.

“Achieving the Paris goals and walking in the light of Laudato Si’ through a just transition from fossil fuels.” Lindlyn Moma, Director of Advocacy, Laudato Si Movement

1-2:45 PM (PST)
A Pioneer Interfaith Program: Inclusive of Indigenous Participation

Moderator: Gerald Grudzen, President of Global Ministries University

“Resetting our Interfaith Table.” The film Doctrine of Discovery: In the Name of Christ will be shown.

Lisa Gosiaeco, current Interfaith Works Board President, and former Interfaith Works Co-Executive Director.
Rev. Corey Passons, Interfaith Relations Program Manager at Interfaith Works, and Interfaith Minister at Community for Interfaith Celebration (affiliated with United Church of Christ).

Kathy Baros Friedt, Interfaith Works Program Council representative for St. Benedict Episcopal Church, and an early catalyst for shifting the conversation around the colonial version of Thanksgiving to that of reflecting the real history of Olympia Washington’s indigenous presence on the land.

3-5 PM (PST)
Panel: Education for Global Citizenship

Moderator: Rev. Frank J. Pisciotta, Jr., DTh., Member of Board, Global Ministries University, Educator and Consultant, New York Boards of Education.

“Gandhi’s Legacy: Education for Global Peace.” Dr. Sudarshan Kapoor, Professor Emeritus, Social Work Education & Peace Studies, Founder and Co-Chair of Human Rights Coalition of the Central Valley, Founding Member of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Unity Committee, City of Fresno, Founding Member of Board of Directors, Fresno Center of Nonviolence.

“Developing the students of today to become the transformative leaders of tomorrow.” Tanmay Davé, GMU doctoral candidate (Theology); Teacher with the Peel District School Board - Toronto, Canada.
“Global Citizenship and the Power of Virtual Exchange.” Nahid Ahmed, Director of the Connect Program at Soliya, a not-for-profit that provides technology-enabled global exchange and education programming in partnership with institutions of higher education.

“Philosophical and Theological Perspectives on Education for Global Citizenship.” John Raymaker, PhD, Faculty, Global Ministries University, Author of several books.