

Ecological crisis rooted in the human heart: Francis

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The ecological crisis now affecting all of humanity is ultimately rooted in the human heart, Pope Francis said in a message to an international symposium on caring for the planet. Source: *Zenit*.

“The care of creation, seen as a shared gift and not as a private possession, always entails the recognition and the respect of the rights of every person and every people,” he said.

Pope Francis stressed this in a message he sent to the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew I, and to the participants in the three-day symposium, titled "Toward a Greener Attica: Preserving the Planet and Protecting its People," in Athens.

“The ecological crisis now affecting all of humanity is ultimately rooted in the human heart, that aspires to control and exploit the limited resources of our planet, while ignoring the vulnerable members of the human family.”

Moreover, the Pope said, we cannot ignore the ubiquitous and pervasive evil in today’s situation, “where sin is manifest in all its destructive power in wars, the various forms of violence and abuse, the abandonment of the most vulnerable, and attacks on nature” (*Laudato Si*, 66).

“The duty to care for Creation,” the Pope said, “challenges all people of good will, and calls upon Christians to acknowledge the spiritual roots of the ecological crisis, and cooperate in offering an unequivocal response.”

FULL STORY

[Pope: ‘The Care of Creation Always Entails Recognition & Respect of Rights of Every Person & People’ \(*Zenit*\)](#)

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