

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES
Conference Call with Dr. Carolyn Y. Woo
June 22, 2015
2:00 pm ET

Coordinator: Welcome and thank you all for standing by. At this time, all participants are in a listen-only mode. After the presentation, we will conduct a question and answer session. To ask a question you may press star and then 1.

This call is being recorded. If you have any objections, you may disconnect at this point. Now I will turn the meeting over to your host Vice President, Tom Gibbons. Sir you may begin.

Thomas Gibbons: Thank you very much. Hello everybody and thank you so much for joining us today for this call. I'd like to wish all the fathers out there a belated Happy Father's Day. I hope it was a meaningful and special day.

And, of course, to me it makes me think of course of the Holy Father and his encyclical on the environment, the reason for which we're gathering today. As far as the agenda for the call today, we sent out earlier today an overview. I'll just very briefly highlight it after my very brief remarks.

Carolyn Woo, President and CEO, will share her remarks on the encyclical and its release last week in Rome at the Vatican. She was part of the esteemed panel that had the opportunity to share with the world this document that will

have implications of course for all of us and for the world beyond. After Carolyn's remarks for about 15 to 20 minutes, we're going to turn over to some questions and answer period.

Followed by a view of CRS opportunities in policy, advocacy and some of the programs that we are embarking on that not only pertain to the encyclical, but of course for the implications for the poor, those who are perhaps most affected by issues around the changing environment around the world.

We'll have a brief opportunity for final comments and then finish the call at 3 o'clock pm. So thank you again for joining us. We have on the call some of our foundation board members, CRS supporters, regional council members and others who are part of the CRS family.

So thank you again. Again joining me is Dr. Carolyn Woo, Bill O'Keefe, Vice President for Government Relations and Advocacy, and Shaun Ferris, who's the Director of Agriculture and Livelihoods. Without further ado, I'm going to turn it over to Carolyn Woo.

Dr. Carolyn Woo: Good afternoon to everyone and thank you so much for calling in. My goal is just to cover for you some of the major points about this encyclical and, particularly, its implications for business because that was the assignment I was given.

I was given one week to show up at the Vatican and to comment on this, particularly with the business people in mind. I just want to say the title of this encyclical is called 'Laudato Si' and it's really the St. Francis Canticle, the Sun of Canticle that preaches - where he talks about Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Mother Earth and that's where it comes from.

The encyclical is really meant for everyone and not just Catholics. And, in fact, you can see it in the panelists who spoke. There was the Cardinal Turkson, of course. But then we have the Metropolitan, which is a like an archbishop, are the sent by the Patriarch of the Orthodox Church.

Then we have a climate scientist and he's a German Lutheran and myself. So it's cast very broadly. The encyclical also departs from tradition in that encyclicals tend to reflect the Pope's thoughts and prior popes' teachings. In this case, the encyclical reflected a lot of different voices.

You will see that it cited like bishops from Australia, from Argentina, from the United States as well as the science findings from across the world. So in that way it's very different.

In your notes, the second point I want to say the most important question the Pope asked and this is what type of world do you want to leave to your children who are now growing up?

And then, you know, a related question is what is the purpose of our life here? What is the purpose of our work? And I just want to say this question is not different than the mission statement that companies often craft. I mean they also try to define their contribution to society business-wide.

But I think the Pope's point is that unless we really address the issue of what are we doing for our common home which is the Earth as well as all people, including the poor people, that that answer would not be complete.

The fourth point is that while there is criticism of where we are today, I see this encyclical as a profoundly hopeful one because it is inviting people to be part of the solution. The Pope is inviting business to be a solution.

So - as a force for good to be a necessary good, in my words, and not a necessary evil. The fifth point is that therefore recognizes that business is a noble vocation or can be a noble vocation.

And by the way, this is covered in other Vatican teachings. And that so long as business works for the common good then it, you know, really can serve people. And in particular, he talks quite a lot about the creation of jobs for people and later on if we come back.

The sixth point is that clearly you can imagine people criticizing the Pope for not being a scientist and why is he talking about the environment. Well actually, this encyclical did a lot of research on the science behind the climate crisis.

In fact, the Pontifical Academies of Sciences and Social Sciences did a lot of convening to also reach out to many different groups in the U.N. and so on. And so, in fact, the Pope said science is the best tool by which we can listen to the cry of the Earth.

And, of course, he saw that life as a (timid). And so - so there is a very science base. The seventh point is that -- and he makes this point over and over again - - and that is we are all connected.

We are all connected to each other as human beings and we are also connected to the Earth. And he talks about the three relationships. Our relationship with God, with each other and with the Earth. These are our three primary relationships.

And if one relationship is broken, the rest will be damaged also. And he talks about all the crisis, the social crisis in the world and the environmental crisis. They are not two different crises.

They came from the same cause. And the same cause to him was basically selfishness, a disregard for the common good. At one point he actually said that sometimes we elevate self-centeredness and selfishness to become a virtue.

And, of course, the eighth point is that we have not treated our common home very well. He reminded us that we are stewards. We are not the owners. God is the owner.

In fact the encyclical has a full chapter on the theology of creation. The encyclical mentions the concept called the "*global commons*". The global commons are really those assets which are given to us as a human family; such as our atmosphere, our water, our biodiversity, our fisheries, our forestry.

Those things, even though they're located within a particular country, in the end do not belong to a different culture, particular country or even a particular company that buys it.

That, our biodiversity, our genetic materials are actually in these commons. And therefore, it needs a different way of governing the global commons.

He reminded us that the loss of biodiversity will affect the ecosystem and, in fact, there is no material which is dispensable; that every creature has its own purpose. Nothing is superfluous. And the value of these things do not depend on mankind. It's - these are just made by God and it is not for humans to just destroy them.

The next point is that the Pope calls for an ecological conversion, which is how we look at the whole social and environmental context of where we live. And I add that in this encyclical, he has given enough information to raise our consciousness so that we understand - so a lot of the description of the destruction and devastation is to raise our consciousness.

And then the second one is, of course, our conscious. From - unconsciousness to conscious. So that we take responsibility for what has gone wrong. The third one is conviction. To have a precision, to have a commitment. And the fourth thing is reflected in conduct.

By the way, he directed to comments to us as individual consumers. I talk about consumerism a lot. He directed comments to business and how it conducts its affairs. And the last one is how we approach development and growth as being overemphasized.

And so, for number ten is that this encyclical says that we really need to think about solidarity for sustainability and the common good and the development of all people.

And because of that I actually do - I have ten points. This article has many points actually. They're divided into different chapters. So for easier understanding, I actually divided these into ten points to draw our attention to them.

The first one is, you know, he's always been skeptical of just pure market forces or technology development because he has seen that the market does not reach everybody.

The market is about profit. And so he says we cannot just let market forces direct how we behave and how we treat other people. The same thing with technology.

So he's not against the market nor against technology. But he says these things have to be guided by human values. Left to themselves, they tend to favor people who are in positions of power.

The second point he talks about is job creation and he hits that point over and over again. He's see that as sort of a sacred responsibility of business. He is very concerned about leaving people behind. He said if we only use technology to eliminate jobs that could become a problem.

The third point is short-term thinking and a selfish mindset. He thinks that short-term thinking that causes people to not invest in other people is self-defeating. He actually said to stop investing in people in order to gain short-term financial gain is bad business for society.

And I have to say that's bad business for business also. And he, in particular, called out the financial sector and the chaos we saw in the year 2008 as really a manifestation of everything that is wrong.

The fourth point he made is that we need to account for all costs which are involved in production. Not just some of the costs. And most people in business who recognize the term externality that is their benefit generated by business where those benefits spill over to the other sectors of society.

But there's also a lot of costs which are created - they're spill over which is not absorbed by the business themselves, but are absorbed by people in the community, even by people far away, such as pollution.

So he talks about the importance of accounting for those costs. And besides, they know of externalities. Bad externalities are created and that there is not another planet or Martians that come and absorb the cost. That we are the people absorbing the cost and our children are the ones.

And here I just mention that for the last 20 years, businesses have promoted a pact that is called triple bottom line which is to take into consideration people and planet in addition to profits.

What we need to do here is that this [triple bottom line] needs to move from being marginal to being forward. From being some of the time to being all of the time and to have a really authentic commitment to it.

The second point he reminded us is that business needs to be undertaking sustainable development which means that we cannot use up the resources in just one generation. That we need to think about the intergenerational issues.

He talks about unlimited growth. It's not sustainable and it's not practical. And in fact, as I have reminded the audience, unlimited growth at the cellular level causes cancer. Unregulated, unlimited growth in the economy could lead us to pump up again all these planetary boundaries and I gave some examples.

The sixth point the Pope made actually is that investing in sustainability is good business. And actually, there are a lot of business studies that show that and I don't want to get into it except that it's really for the business person as business sense and what people are given credit for.

The seventh implication is that he also calls for inclusive development which means that you have to take the poor along with you. You have to take everybody along with you.

So economic development that allows some people to get richer, sometimes on the backs of other people, it's unacceptable. So - and this is not a pipedream because these are the goals coming forth from the United Nations and from the World Bank which is calling for the elimination of extreme poverty and also tracking incomes and equality.

The next point, the eighth point he makes is that -- I make that actually -- is that when businesses do the right thing, if they design products to be long-lasting that could be recycled and reused and the type of energy and materials they use, they could help us consumers become more virtuous and responsible consumers.

The ninth point is that the Pope reminds us this cannot just be all talk and this cannot be window-dressing and we cannot just dignify ourselves with more branding and nice words. That we have to be authentic and urgent about this.

Then the tenth point is that business cannot do it alone. Business and government must work together and sometimes it may require some regulations and that's something from standing.

So to end this whole thing really is the Pope reminding us that the Earth is our home. What we do affects the next generation. That we all are - that we are highly integrated and related to each other and to the Earth.

That the Earth comes from God and that we are supposed to be good stewards and that we need to watch our motivations. We cannot let selfishness have the last word.

And that we as consumers and business and overall economic development, all have to go to play and that business need to be by the people for the people.

So I'm just going to end my comments here and I think I stayed on time and open up for questions. By the way, the whole encyclical is close to 200 pages. So it's hard to summarize everything in about 18 minutes.

Thomas Gibbons: Carolyn thank you so much. This is Tom again. If Anne Thompson is on the line and has a question, we'd like to welcome Anne. Anne, for those who may not know, is the Environmental Correspondent with NBC News.

She's been reporting on this subject for many years. I believe they sent her to places as far and long as Iceland and other areas to look at the firsthand effects. So with that we will open it up for Q&A please.

Coordinator: Yes sir. Thank you. Participants, we will now begin the question and answer session. To ask a question, you may press star and then 1. And please unmute your phone and record your name clearly when prompted. And your name is required to introduce your question.

To withdraw your request, press star 2. And for the first question we have Ms. Anne Thompson on the line. Ma'am your line is open. You may begin.

Anne Thompson: Thank you very much. Carolyn, I have two questions for you. First of all, I know that after you finished the press conference I saw a photo of all of you walking out and the Pope was there to greet you.

And so my questions are: First of all what, if anything, did Pope Francis say to you and then secondly, as you've pointed out, I mean this is such a sweeping document.

He talks about everything from genetically modified crops to the plight of indigenous people to cap-and-trade [emissions control and regulation]. I mean the breadth is really stunning. So what do you take away from -- you know, you can read all of this and you almost get sort of overwhelmed -- is what is it that he wants us to do?

Or that he wants people to do to start making the kinds of changes that will help preserve the Earth?

Dr. Carolyn Woo: So on the first question, what did he say to me? Since I don't speak Italian or Spanish. So we've now come to only one exchange and we're very sincere. I will say "God Bless you" and he would say "please pray for me". And I would say "I do that every day" and he said, "Good, keep praying."

So that's always our exchanges but it's very meaningful. He now knows my name. He said, "Carolyn, please pray me." So I actually ask everybody to please pray for him because he's really very serious about that.

The second one is that Anne you are absolutely right. There's just this sweeping encyclical, but I just want to say some of these about modified crops or a cap-and-trade. They're in, you know, three sentences and it goes on. So it's very broad, but on some of those topics it is not as deep.

The bottom line is that he wants us first of all to really be conscious about this issue. To let it affect our conscience. To connect it with our faith and to rise and do something. And he also says we need conversation. We really need dialogue. But not dialogue just to waste time. A dialogue to really explore what we need to do. (Citing) even on cap-and-trade. I have some thoughts about that. I think we need cap-and-trade at least in the short-term to create some incentives or to set a price so that people will move away from carbon.

But I think all of these things is to suggest that we just all need to be mindful and we need to claim ownership for what has gone wrong and what can go right.

Anne Thompson: Carolyn thank you very, very much.

Dr. Carolyn Woo: Thank you.

Coordinator: And we have another question coming from the line of Mr. Bob Bartels. Sir the line is open. You may begin.

Bob Bartels: Thank you very much. Carolyn you mentioned that we really have a need for authentic commitment to the concept of triple bottom line of people, planet and profits. And you also talk about the need, as the Pope said, for investing in sustainability as a win-win opportunity for business.

Can you elaborate what plans CRS has to engage in fostering these initiatives that are called for?

Dr. Carolyn Woo: Yes. So, Bob, a number of things. First of all, actually now we're moved heavily into impact investing, which is to bring private capital and public

capital together to create solutions which have social good. That's what we're focused on.

For 20 years or so, I have focused on this whole area of ESG, our triple bottom line, following companies, the U.N. global compact. I would say I'm still at the point that I don't think business's commitment to these priorities are primary.

I think there are some that are doing good things. I think some are showing results. I think some of the corporate communication reports are indicating the good work that has been done.

But I think overall it's also, as consumers actually, I think that's where we could have the most impact - to challenge businesses to help us become a virtuous consumer.

But CRS's own focus, as you know, is on our impact investing and in our own programming. We are doing quite a number of climate-smart agriculture projects that my colleagues will talk about as well as advocating together with the USCCB for the proper policies.

Bob Bartels: Thank you very much.

Dr. Carolyn Woo: Thank you.

Coordinator: At this time, there are no questions on queue. Back to you speakers.

Thomas Gibbons: Okay great. Thank you. Before I turn it over to Bill O'Keefe to discuss some of our policy and advocacy initiatives as well as Shaun Ferris to talk about climate-smart agriculture and that realm, I just want to, again, thank Carolyn.

And for those who aren't aware, this was a tremendous event for the Church, for the Pope, for CRS.

We actually, Carolyn or CRS was included in over 1000 news articles in relation to the encyclical launch. We had a total of about 1100 social media posts which is easily the most that we've ever had in one day on a single topic which generated 4.6 million impressions.

This story too will generate, I think, a follow-on effect given the Pope's visit in America in September. So we really are at a point where this issue will certainly be getting a lot of attention going forward.

And one of the areas where CRS operates, like in all issues, is how we can work with the government to favorably affect the poor and the beneficiaries around the world that you and we together support.

So with that, Bill, if I can ask you to address the issue of advocacy for us on these topics.

Bill O'Keefe: Thanks very much Tom, and also Carolyn of course. And also to our guests for joining us today. Before I touch on our advocacy plans, I just wanted to say one of the very first things that CRS is doing is helping the Catholic population to reflect on the encyclical and its message. We've developed a lot of opportunities and materials that are available on our Web site, for example, that will help the Church and Catholics around the country to delve into the document, particularly from the perspective of those whom we are serving around the world.

The policy work that we are going to be doing to follow up on the Holy Father's call really is just in response to the reality that he lifted up: that those

who contributed the least of this crisis are unfortunately in a position to suffer the most.

And as the richest and most powerful country in the world, the U.S. has a responsibility to help those vulnerable people to adapt to these changes in the climate that we, in our programming around the world, already see.

We already see the farmers who are seeing their yields decrease. The coastal inhabitants who are more affected by storms. And so, we simply want to help our government to respond to the realities we already see in a way that reflects their responsibility.

In large part that means two things. One is urging our government to increase climate financing to address the needs of the three billion people most at-risk. Particularly those who are living in the least developed countries and those small island developing states that are at greatest risk.

There's something called the Green Climate Fund which is an international fund that's been set up. It's not a U.N. entity or organization but it's an independent, multi-lateral fund and the U.S. has a role on the governing board.

This administration has made a commitment of \$3 billion to the Green Climate Fund and we want to urge our government to fulfill that pledge and eventually to exceed it. We also have a set of recommendations about how that money should be used.

And those recommendations really just come from the good development practices that we have learned from our 75 years of work around the world. Promoting people-centered approaches, morally acceptable principles of

good development, transparency, accountability, local ownership. Those kinds of things that we know provide successful outcomes.

So the first set of recommendations will be advancing or around helping people to adapt and that's what I just covered. The second set relates to the fact that we know that we cannot adapt our way out of this crisis.

That if we don't find ways to prevent the worst-case scenarios, then the poor are really going to suffer. And so, our second major advocacy goal is around urging the United States to take leadership in the global climate negotiations.

And, achieve a legally binding, transparent and accountable global climate change treaty that will set the world up to make the kind of changes that will prevent the worst outcomes.

We then are going to be urging the government to implement what they agree to in the climate negotiations in December in Paris and then, again, to contribute to the Green Climate Fund which, in addition to helping people adapt, will also help the developing countries to play their role in preventing the worst impact.

So, in a nutshell, we're going to be working to urge our government to help the poorest to adapt and then also to take leadership in preventing the worst outcomes of climate change. I think that's a pretty short and sweet summary and I'll turn it over.

Thomas Gibbons: Thank you Bill. And Shaun if you're on the line. Shaun Ferris. Shaun is one of our technical experts focusing on agriculture. Climate-smart agriculture is something that has been infused into all our work from Africa to Latin America to the East.

And Shaun has been at the center of this. So, Shaun, if you're on the line, please join us. Thank you.

Shaun Ferris: Thanks very much Tom and good afternoon everybody. I think this is a really critical time for us to be talking about this subject. I think it's something that's been on a lot of our minds for a long time.

And I just think this encyclical really raises this point to millions of people around the world. And it really gives us an opportunity to reflect on what we are doing and I think how we can work on this subject in the future.

But just to give you an example of some of the work that we're doing at CRS and the agricultural team: we work on about 200 projects a year and we support about six million rural and farming people every year.

A major part of this work is really helping communities to adapt to this changing environment and it's certainly a situation where millions of people now are being exposed to more extreme weather conditions every year.

The types of things that we're seeing happening around the world, as Tom has just said: basically, we're seeing an increase in the number of droughts. We're seeing an increase in the numbers of floods.

And this is resulting in millions of dollars' worth of damage in terms of income in crops, livestock, households. And really, really, affecting entire communities around the world.

When you have rising night temperatures, we also see that pest and disease are spreading much more quickly around the world. And I think the combination

of environment and increased trade is also working together in some ways to mean that if there are diseases out there, through those two avenues, if you like, they spread much more quickly.

And we're working on a lot of projects which are where we work with farmers to introduce new varieties of crops that are resistant to diseases which never used to prevalent in certain areas.

So a lot of our work then again is trying to deal with pest and diseases. We certainly have this problem of shifting rainfall patterns and farmers now being very uncertain of what crops to plant and also when to plant.

And so we're trying to use technology such as smartphones and SMS technology to inform people about new weather conditions and about when rains will be coming to their particular areas and very often telling them that rains will be delayed.

So that's become an increasingly important part of our work. And really, the bottom line here is that as you get rising temperatures, in many parts of the world that means that we're getting decreasing yields.

And as many of you know we have to double or increase the amount of food production by the 50% or by 2050. So the affects of climate change are really a major challenge to world food security.

We have about 20 to 30 projects that specifically support things that we call either conservation agriculture or climate-smart agriculture. Basically, again, helping people to adapt to their local climatic conditions.

I would say that conservation agriculture is not something that's just been practiced in the developing world. The United States farmers are also taking onboard these approaches and at the moment, it's the United States farmers which are the highest users of new conservation agricultural techniques.

And what we're doing is we're learning from, in many cases, what's happening here and then working with farmers overseas to apply that technology. So really, we're using these technologies to sustainably increase agricultural production and that leads to improved incomes.

We're also trying to adapt, help people adapt and build resilience to climate change and we're at the very cusp, if you like, or starting to think about how people can reduce or remove greenhouse gas emissions.

In the practical sense then, the types of things that we're doing are providing farmers or giving them access to crops that have better adapted to reduced rainfall or in some cases to flooding conditions.

We're helping them make sure that they have cover crops on the land all the time so that they can retain moisture. We're helping them with rotation systems to build soil fertility. And we're also providing them with technologies to help them to grow higher value crops.

In terms of who we're working with: Across Africa we're working on a new approach called the African Alliance for Climate Change Agriculture and this is working with the African Union and the new Alliance for Agricultural Development.

And that's going to be a project where five international NGOs come together to support six million farmers over the next seven years to adapt these new climate change agriculture approaches.

And this is really an integration of the work that we're doing, but the farmers are also experimenting with [these systems]. And I'll just give you one example of where we're promoting the idea of growing local trees on farms and that's been - there's been a tradition of people actually removing all of their trees.

But this initiative that was started by farmers about 20 years ago has already planted trees on ten million acres of land. It's called the Great Green Wall of Africa.

And it's really being developed by the farmers and by a lot of international NGOs and the research community as a barrier against the spread of the Sahara Desert going south into Africa.

We're also working on something called water-smart agriculture and we're doing that with organizations like the Howard G. Buffett Foundation and also private sector companies like Keurig Green Mountain who are helping us to introduce new technologies to grow crops where things are proving difficult.

And in areas that suffer from typhoons and also in areas of conflict, we're working to help farmers to really regenerate farmland to bring more farmland back into production so that people can maintain their incomes and their livelihoods so that they don't migrate.

And I think this is going to be one of the biggest challenges that we face in the future: unless we can help people to farm on the land that they have, they're going to move.

And I think what we're seeing a lot of the movement in the transitional—the migration of people from Africa towards Europe—is a very sort of tip of the iceberg prospect that things might be like unless we can help people to farm their land more effectively.

So that just gives you a little bit of an insight into the work that we're doing and obviously, this is a massive enterprise to be involved in and we are working with very many partners in our networks to do our bit to support farming communities overseas.

So that's my bit. Thanks very much Tom.

Thomas Gibbons: Shaun thank you so much. If we can open up the call to any questions that any of the attendees might have for either Bill or Shaun at this time.

Coordinator: Yes sir. Participants to ask a question, you may press star 1. And to withdraw your request press star 2. Once again, participants to ask a question you may press star 1. And to withdraw your request press star 2.

At this time there are no questions on queue. Back to you sir.

Thomas Gibbons: Okay.

Dr. Carolyn Woo: Tom?

Thomas Gibbons: Yes.

Dr. Carolyn Woo: I just want to add a few things. Anne Thompson asked “what does the Pope want most?” He really wants people to talk about this. He wants this to be appropriated at the lowest level. He's asked at every bishop's conference to push it down as low as the parish level and so on.

He really sees this as the defining crisis of our time. He wants people to really get into these particular questions. He also sees that this is as much for the poor as it is for the environment because he saw these things completely linked.

And when he was working in the slums of Argentina, he saw - he was a not a person who worked for the poor and then came into environmental crisis or a person who worked on the green revolution and came to understand the poor.

He saw those two factors coming together in terms of how it affected, it affected those lives [of the poor]. I want to say I got different questions after the panel. One of the most popular questions on Catholic media was “Carolyn, don't you think the Pope identifying the environmental crisis, the ecological crisis gives cover to the population control people? Now they're going to say, ‘well we need population control to solve this problem.’ Aren't you concerned that the Pope's message will give cover and open up the floodgates for population control folks?”

So my response to that was that we are to distinguish two things. There is a problem which is the whole ecological crisis and then there is a proposed solution.

The proposed solution is population control. So just because that whole solution is completely distasteful and unacceptable to us, it doesn't mean that

we therefore cannot talk about the problem. We just have to disregard that particular solution.

The Pope made it very clear it's not because there are too many people. That's not the problem. And by the way, the German climate scientist showed a graph, which I heard didn't come through very well, but it showed that the whole contribution, the carbon contribution for the poorest people—they hardly had any contribution to it. If you sorted it by income level, it's like a big funnel. The people with the most money at the top. The whole carbon issue is tied to consumption, is tied to production and is tied to wealthier people in countries.

But the whole concern about population control gaining a pathway back into the conversation or a bigger pathway into the conversation—that fear is small compared to the—at least I think—to the sort of the devastation that we're seeing.

And I think it may be good for new generations of people to engage this topic of population control. We find it distasteful and actually we need discussion to articulate why we find it to be incorrect, a wrong assumption and an unacceptable approach.

But that was where a lot of the Catholic audience and media was coming from. And then the other one of course is why would the Pope talk about the climate? Can he not stick to other topics? What is the connection between his authority as a pope and the climate?

But of course, it begins in Genesis where God made the creation, created the Earth and so on. And also, how we treat the Earth and its effect on the very poor people. But those are the two sort of major questions.

Thomas Gibbons: Thank you Carolyn for that. If I could just add on a note as far as why is this pope talking about the climate. There is a very consistent trend, as Carolyn just mentioned, going back to the Bible to creation care.

Through St. Francis, through Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict, who has actually been termed the green pope for the number of times he has spoken about climate change.

So, in many respects, this is kind of the fruition of work that has been done and the essential tenet to our faith for 2000 years. Just articulated with a lot more gravity, with a lot more emphasis, because at the end of the day what Pope Francis is calling us to is really to look within our hearts in terms of how we consume, in terms of how we function as a society.

And really emphasizing that one family, that one human family which we all believe as Catholics that we are profoundly affected and perhaps best illustrated through this issue because the impact knows no national boundaries no continental boundaries.

The impacts affect us all and most particularly the vulnerable in the farthest places in the world. But there is a connection to all us. So in this regard, the Pope is upholding and emphasizing and elevating a very consistent message in our faith.

Also just if I can harken back to one thing that I think it was Bill who mentioned -- or I'm sorry Shaun -- higher temperatures lower productivity, lower yields. And I took that just to use the analogy of our own bodies.

What is the surest sign of sickness in a body? In a body of young child? In ourselves? It's temperature. It's our own temperature. So this rising temperature that we are experiencing is also a sign of stress.

It's a sign of disease in some respects to the body. And again, this is partially what is represented in the encyclical. So I would like to - unless Carolyn, Shaun or Bill have any other comments?

Bill O'Keefe: This is Bill. One quick comment which is it's going to be really interesting and I'm sure everyone on the call will be interested to see how the Holy Father chooses to advance his thinking in - when he comes to the United States in September. Particularly when he addresses the United Nations and when he speaks with the Congress.

I think it's going to be, for us who are involved in the Church and involved also in public policy questions, just an absolutely fascinating and exciting time to reflect on the Holy Father and try to carry forward his message into the public sphere.

And I think because we at CRS do see how this problem plays out every day around the world. It's an opportunity for us to do more for those we serve and I think it's going to be also just an incredibly fascinating time. So thank you. And thanks Tom for setting up this opportunity.

Thomas Gibbons: My pleasure, thank you. Thank you Bill. And if I may to re-emphasize this is a hopeful time. Carolyn described it as a hopeful document, although some of the implications of climate change are certainly not pleasant. It is a hopeful time because the ability to assess the future from this date forward is very much in our hands.

So by Carolyn being part of the very, very few voices that were at the public launching, she was representing us and CRS and she was representing you on this call as supporters of CRS. She was representing the U.S. Catholic Family.

So our voice was represented and we're very proud. Carolyn has been in front of this issue and has written about this over the last two years and beyond that. So again, thank you so much Carolyn for representing us at this momentous time.

And again for those on the call, thank you so much for joining us and know that we view this as a tremendous opportunity to do something real and do something tangible.

This document articulates a vision which we will be now working with going forward. But know that you have been with us helping the poor serve the poor and we welcome you to join us in kind of this new launch of this new way of articulating the urgency of the work we do and the opportunity we have both in terms of mitigating or preventing the worst aspects.

And it has been said that the poor will feel the effects of climate change 10 to 20 times what we will, "we" meaning the more well-off around the world. They [the poor] will be bearing the brunt. So you will be helping us prevent against the worst through mitigation and adapting to a changed world, a changed climate going forward.

So thank you for joining us on this journey. If you do want to learn more, please reach out to us or your CRS representative. And as a follow up to this call, we will be sending out to you a Web site that has been created specifically on this issue. Crs.org/pope-francis-climate. We will send you that

link directly along with two recent policy papers focusing on adaptation and mitigation.

So thank you to Carolyn, to Bill, Shaun and to Anne. And thanks all of you for joining us on this call. Good luck, God speed and thank you. And we look forward to communicating with you further on this. Goodbye everyone.

Dr. Carolyn Woo: Thank you. Bye-bye.

Coordinator: And that concludes today's conference. Thank you for participating. You may now disconnect.

END