PROCLADE INTERNAZIONALE ETS

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TOWARDS COP 31

Rome, October 20, 2026

Dear brothers and sisters, friends,

Following the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, the countdown to COP 31 begins. This event will soon bring together men and women from every continent in Turkey. Once again, we are delighted that several members of the Claretian Family will be among them, contributing our small drop to the ocean of awareness and the struggle for a world that is far more respectful of Creation, justice, peace, and the dignity of all human life.

Millions upon millions of people affected by climate change and the misuse of the Earth's resources cannot travel to Turkey. This is prevented by a lack of economic resources, which sometimes doesn't even allow them to have a minimum daily meal, and by so many situations of war and restrictions on their rights. It is a joy that, together with thousands of men and women of goodwill, the Claretian delegation, organized through the *Fondazione Proclade Internazionale ETS*, will strive to ensure that the voices of those who are no longer present are heard there. Our thanks to *Claretians at United Nations*, to those who will be traveling, and to all the people from so many nations who are making sacrifices to support this presence.

Claretians at United Nations has for years been providing excellent materials that help us understand what is at stake for humanity at COP, along with a series of daily reports increasingly requested by institutions and organizations. Thank you to all who make this possible!

A year ago, before COP 30, Pope Leo XIV was very clear: we must act swiftly, with faith and foresight; we must promote concrete actions with hope and determination. We are called to courageously undertake a serious ecological conversion that transforms mindsets and ways of life. International agreements are not failing; our response is failing! As Pope Francis reminded us before COP 28: there are no cultural changes without changes in people.

The countdown has begun. As Pope Leo XIV urged, it may be time to raise our voices, for each of us to tell our nation's representatives that we are in a hurry, that respect for Creation and for the dignity of the human being and their rights must be placed back at the center.

Let no one be mistaken in thinking this is someone else's business (young people, lay people, some sensitive souls...)! As Fr. Mathew Vattamattam affirmed, inviting us to follow COP 30, care must replace consumption, communion must triumph over exploitation.

These days we are very mindful of St. Anthony Mary Claret, a wonderful companion to help us truly engage in what COP represents, to take a further step, to contribute and not just pass by, to join forces and build bridges. Participate in COP, do your part, make some noise and take action. May God help us on our journey!

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