

# Dear Padre,

***Our planet's condition is now a serious problem. Why is climate change hardly mentioned in homilies?***

Many people view climate change as a political issue more than a religious one. As such, some homilists avoid controversial, politicized topics altogether; others are selective in preaching about them; still others tend to use the pulpit as a soapbox for a single political issue or a variety of them. Moreover, preachers themselves are not apolitical, nor are they all centrist in their ideologies. Like those in the pews, homilists have biases, too.

So how did climate change become so politicized? Despite decades of substantial evidence from many respected scientific experts, confusion exists about climate change because the issue's scope is massive and hard to digest, international cooperation is mandatory, and polar-opposite opinions of politicians and their followers are often intransigent. Nevertheless, Pope Francis convened an international conference in 2019 to look at how religions can help the world reach sustainable ecological goals by 2030 to, he said, repair "the damage we have done. No branch of science or form of wisdom should be overlooked, and this includes religions and the languages particular to them."

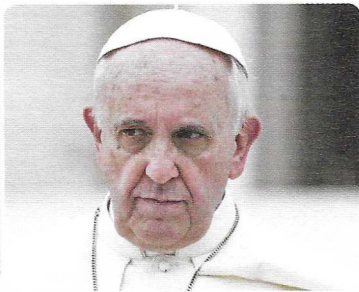
Thus, according to the Pope, "religious voices" play a crucial role in addressing the serious condition of our planet. Inasmuch as religion has a fundamental responsibility to offer people faith and hope in a better world—and homilies help believers find meaning and purpose—taking action and speaking out about humanity's well-being are becoming less optional. ●



CHAMASORN JEEF / SHUTTERSTOCK

**Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org**

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
April 24 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 6:8–15 Jn 6:22–29	April 25 <i>St. Mark, Evangelist</i> 1 Pt 5:5b–14 Mk 16:15–20	April 26 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 8:1b–8 Jn 6:35–40	April 27 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 8:26–40 Jn 6:44–51	April 28 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 9:1–20 Jn 6:52–59	April 29 <i>St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church</i> Acts 9:31–42 Jn 6:60–69	April 30 <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i> Acts 2:14a, 36–41 1 Pt 2:20b–25 Jn 10:1–10



GIULIO NAPOLITANO / SHUTTERSTOCK

## **A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS**

***The adversity that we are experiencing with the pandemic, and that we already feel in climate change, must spur us on, must drive us to innovation, to invention, to seek new paths. We do not come out of a crisis the same, we come out better or worse.***

**VIDEO MESSAGE TO MARK EARTH DAY, APRIL 22, 2021**