

POPE FRANCIS
GENERAL AUDIENCE
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[...] Social inequality and environmental degradation go together and have the same root (cf. Encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, 101): the sin of wanting to possess and wanting to dominate over one's brothers and sisters, of wanting to possess and dominate nature and God himself. But this is not the design for creation. [...]

[...] When the obsession to possess and dominate excludes millions of persons from having primary goods; when economic and technological inequality are such that the social fabric is torn; and when dependence on unlimited material progress threatens our common home, then we cannot stand by and watch. No, this is distressing. We cannot stand by and watch! With our gaze fixed on Jesus (cf. *Heb* 12:2) and with the certainty that His love is operative through the community of His disciples, we must act all together, in the hope of generating something different and better. Christian hope, rooted in God, is our anchor. It moves the will to share, strengthening our mission as disciples of Christ, who shared everything with us. [...]

[...] And in conclusion, let us think about the children. Read the statistics: how many children today are dying of hunger because of a non good distribution of riches, because of the economic system as I said above; and how many children today do not have the right to education for the same reason. May this image of children in want due to hunger and the lack of education help us understand that after this crisis we must come out of it better. Thank you. [...]