

Her presentation notes that business as a noble enterprise finds a particular role in “the creation of jobs as an essential part of its service to the common good.” Today more people are presently employed in solar energy production and service than in the fossil fuel industry. Hence, the sense of business transition and economic transformation has already begun significantly with particular reference to the energy sector.

The truth is that those countries whether developed or developing which reach the age of renewable sources of energy that will not denigrate the common legacy of the earth’s atmosphere will be those who offer their people better lives. They will be free from the cost of and dependence on fossil fuel. Poverty alleviation and development will be supported by a new paradigm of progress. There will be no conflicts over sun, wave and wind energy resources. The challenge posed by climate change is at the same time an opportunity for the world as a whole to prepare and move toward sustainable pathways of development supported by environmentally sound technologies based on renewable resources.

However one should not underestimate the change in human awareness that such a transition will demand. Hence, the encyclical calls the faithful and invites humanity to live life on the basis on which life has been granted to us. It does so with the assurance that in this endeavor, a sense of the sacred will sustain us. Resonant with the Pontiff’s reassurance that divine light and wisdom will accompany us are the words of Thomas Berry which profoundly confirm the depth of the challenge and the difficulties of the task before us.

“The deep psychic change needed to withdraw us from the fascination of the industrial world, and the deceptive gifts that it gives us, is too difficult for simply the avoidance of its difficulties or the attractions of its benefits. Eventually only our sense of the sacred will save us.”^v

ⁱ *Francis: A Saint’s Way*, James Cowan (Hodder & Stoughton, London, 2001) p. 100.

ⁱⁱ The voice of science could not be more precise. Yet we are persuaded not to take heed. “If humanity wishes to preserve a planet similar to that on which civilization developed and to which life on Earth has adapted, paleoclimate evidence and on-going climate change suggest that CO₂ will need to be reduced from its current 385 ppm (The measurement as of March 2011 was 392.4 ppm. And is currently 400 ppm) to at most 350 ppm.” *Target Atmospheric CO₂: Where Should Humanity Aim?* James Hansen, Makiko Sato, Pushker Kharecha, et alia. Open Atmospheric Science Journal, vol. 2 (2008).

ⁱⁱⁱ Joseph Heath, *The New York Times*, Saturday, June 20, 2015, p. A19.

^{iv} Report on the structured expert dialogue on the 2013-2015 review—document FCCC/SB/2015/INF.1, p.18.

^v Kathleen Deignan, *When the Trees Say Nothing: Writings on Nature* (Sorin Books, Notre Dame, IN, 2003) pp.18-19.