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Latest: 33 Faith Institutions Divest From Fossil Fuels at COP31 in Antalya

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"The Earth Called - Together for the Climate"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Thirty-three faith institutions across Europe, North America and Africa announced on 17 November 2026 that they are pulling their money out of fossil-fuel companies. The joint move, timed to the UN climate conference COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye, is addressed to the negotiators inside the summit halls. Their message is plain: the world needs a rapid and fair energy transition, and it needs it now - to confront the climate crisis, the conflicts it feeds, and the rising cost of living.

Thirty-one of the 33 are Catholic institutions. That is the headline inside the headline. Dioceses, religious orders, development agencies and lay organisations - from Germany to Italy, from Canada to the Democratic Republic of Congo - have signed the same statement on the same day. And they are not alone. To date more than 700 faith-based organisations have publically committed to divesting from fossil fuels, part of a global effort rallying upward of 1,700 institutions with combined assets eclipsing $40 trillion.

Seven of the new signatories are German. Among them is the Fulda Diocese, which becomes Germany's first Catholic diocese to divest. It is joined by Misereor, the German bishops' development agency, by Pax Christi Germany, and by the Lumen Gentium Foundation, a lay organisation that represents 19.2 Million Catholics. When a body that speaks for nearly twenty million believers moves its money, the markets notice - and so do the negotiators.

Five Catholic dioceses in total have signed on: two in Italy, and one each in Germany, France and Ireland. In France, the Diocese of Montpellier becomes the third Catholic diocese in the country to take the step. The list also reaches beyond the Catholic Church. The Anglican Diocese of New Westminster in Canada is the fifth Anglican diocese to divest, and Holy Canadian Martyrs Church in Ottawa has joined too.

Sixteen Catholic religious orders ministering on three continents are part of the announcement. They include the Carmelites of the Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary in the United States, the Salesians in France, and Franciscans working in Germany, Rwanda and Burundi. The statement also carries the names of Oikocredit, a Catholic university in DR Congo, and the Scalabrinian Foundation, an international organisation serving migrants and refugees.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

READ THE FULL STORY

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