

“An authentic faith, always involves a deep desire to change the world, to transmit values, to leave this earth somehow better than we found it. We love this magnificent planet on which God has put us, and we love the human family which dwells here, with all its tragedies and struggles, its hopes and aspirations, its strengths and weaknesses. The earth is our common home and all of us are brothers and sisters.” (#183 Joy of the Gospel)

Dear Member of Congress:

For the first time in history, the leader of over one billion Roman Catholics worldwide will address a joint session of the U.S. Congress on September 24. Pope Francis, whose integrity and commitment to marginalized people has captivated people around the globe calls us to recognize and act for systemic changes in the way we live and organize our societies.

His repeated calls to the nations to uphold a dignified life and ensure social justice for those who are impoverished or rejected, and his recent pleas on behalf of Earth, “our common home,” come from Pope Francis’ own deep faith and years of experience among people struggling to survive.

As faith leaders across denominations and faith traditions, we resonate with Pope Francis’ concern for the poor and the planet, as with his call for a discussion of critical issues that transcends conventional divisions. We urge members of Congress – and all of us -- to listen with open minds and hearts to his words and to work together, even across great differences, for the common good.

May Francis’ message inspire a renewed vision of public service on behalf of the human family and our shared home. We pray that our work as faith leaders and yours as Members of Congress will always contribute to improving life for all, with special attention to the poorest and most vulnerable people in our own country and around the world; to the health of our planet; and to the just peace for which all humanity yearns.

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Executive Director
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Rabbi Steve Fox
Chief Executive
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Ruth Messinger
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Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
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Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, Director
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Rabbi Rick Jacobs
President
Union for Reform Judaism

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Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer
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