January 10, 2019

Mary Evelyn Tucker  
Forum on Religion and Ecology  
Yale University

Very appreciated Mary Evelyn,

Receive an affectionate greeting from all those who make up the Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network -REPAM-.

We write to you, following up on our communication of September, as President and Vice President of the Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network -REPAM, first of all to deeply thank you for the support you have given us through your mission in favor of the environment.

The PAN AMAZON ECCLESIAL NETWORK (REPAM), is an institution endorsed and co-founded by the regional institutions of the Catholic Church: CELAM (Latin American Episcopal Council), CLAR (Confederation of Religious Men and Women in Latin American and the Caribbean), Caritas Latin America and the Caribbean, the Episcopal Conference for the Amazon of the Conference of Bishops of Brazil -CNBB-, and the Episcopal and Religious National Conferences, with the support of the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development at the Vatican (former Pontifical Council for Peace and Justice). As you know, REPAM is integrated by a large number of the Catholic Church institutions and presences that work in the accompaniment and integral defense of territories, vulnerable groups (with special attention to indigenous peoples and other minorities), their rights, and in the promotion of life and economic alternatives in the Pan-Amazonian territory.

At this moment we have been entrusted with a special mission to accompany the process of preparation and consultation towards the Special Synod for the Amazon in direct coordination with the Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops, participating in the Pre-Synod Council that the Holy Father has integrated with various representatives of REPAM and the Bishops in the territory that are part of this network. It is an honor and an important responsibility to be able to provide this bridge and listening service to the territory.

The main reason for this letter is to invite you to an International Conference in March 2019 (19 to 21) in Washington, D.C. (at Georgetown University) in coordination with the Dicastery for the promotion of Integral Human Development, the Permanent Mission of the Holy See to the UN, and with the participation of the Secretariat of the Synod.
In this event, we will have the presence of representatives of UN Environment, Special Rapporteur for Indigenous Peoples Rights, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and other specialized networks in the US and around the world. We also have the formal support of Georgetown University (host and co-sponsor of the event) and of the Jesuit Conference for the US and Canada in terms of institutional and academic support. Being a space of global projection, as you can see in the Concept Note that we share with you in the Annex, we will have an important number of representatives of the Church (Cardinals, Bishops and priests), international networks, and of indigenous peoples and territorial networks, of diverse regions of the world: Amazon, Congo Basin, Asia Pacific, Mesoamerica, and others.

We thank you again for your fraternal support and friendship in mission, we await for your attentive response as soon as possible so that we can continue advancing in the preparation of the event, and we ask our God of life to continue accompanying You in this mission so vital for our Church.

For those of you who are based in the US we request for you to organize your own lodging. We are very happy to offer you lunch during the 3 days of our Conference.

We are available for any questions or further information through the executive secretariat of REPAM (Mr. Mauricio López Oropeza mlopez@redamazonica.org and +593 998827915).

In communion.

Cardinal Claudio Hummes, OFM
President of REPAM

Cardinal Pedro Barreto J., SJ
Vice President of REPAM