FOUR COMMENTARIES ON THE POPE’S MESSAGE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND INCOME INEQUALITY

PROEM

THE EDITORS of *The Quarterly Review of Biology* have devoted a section of this issue to the Encyclical Letter by Pope Francis entitled *Laudato Si’—On Care For Our Common Home*. We feel that this comprehensive description of the threats of planet warming challenges the entire biological basis of life on Earth. We have invited three environmental scientists and two historians of religion to comment on the Encyclical; their names and abbreviated biographies are below.

*Laudato Si’—On Care For Our Common Home* is available at http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html.

**Peter H. Raven** is President Emeritus of the Missouri Botanical Garden and a member of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences. His academic fields include botany, evolutionary biology, and biodiversity. He has received the International Environmental Leadership Medal from the United Nations Environment Programme in 1982, International Prize for Biology from the Japanese Government in 1986, Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement in 1994, and National Medal of Science from the United States in 2000. Dr. Raven is a frequent speaker on the need for biodiversity and species conservation.

**Mary Evelyn Tucker** and **John Grim** are co-directors of The Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale University (http://fore.yale.edu). They teach in a Master’s degree program between the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and the Divinity School at Yale. Together they organized 10 conferences on world religions and ecology at Harvard University from 1995 through 1998. As a result of these conferences, Drs. Tucker and Grim produced 10 volumes with Harvard University Press on the topics of world religions and ecology.

**Calvin B. DeWitt** is Professor Emeritus of Environmental Studies of the Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Professor DeWitt is a member of the graduate faculties of Environment and Resources, Water Resources Management, Limnology and Marine Science, Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development. In 2015, he presented a paper entitled *Carbon, Climate,*


Albert D. Carlson, Editor Emeritus

Correction: Changes were made to the final sentence of the introductory paragraph after this article was published. The article was reposted on October 18, 2016. An erratum will appear in the December 2016 issue.