THE QUARTERLY REVIEW

of BIOLOGY

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 codirectors 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,*

245

and Self-Control: Prophetic Teachings of the Biosphere at the seminar on Human and Natural Ecology: Economic, Political, and Cultural Implications, held at the Center for Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas and St. Paul Seminary. The proceedings from the seminar will be published as a book. Other recent publications include the volumes, Song of a Scientist: The Harmony of a God-Soaked Creation (2012. Grand Rapids (Michigan): Square Inch) and Earthwise: A Guide to Hopeful Creation Care (2011. Third Edition. Grand Rapids (Michigan): Faith Alive Christian Resources).

GERARDO CEBALLOS is a senior research scientist in the Departamento de Ecología de la Biodiversidad at the Instituto de Ecología of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. His specialties include the ecology and conservation of endangered species, vertebrate ecology and biogeography, macroecological distribution patterns of mammals, and the design and creation of protected areas. He has received the Whitley Award for Nature in 2006, Merriam Award from the American Society of Mammalogists in 2010, and Special Distinction Environmental Merit Bicentennial Award from the government of Mexico that same year. His books include The Annihilation of Nature: Human Extinction of Birds and Mammals (2015. Baltimore (Maryland): Johns Hopkins University Press), Mammals of Mexico (2014. Baltimore (Maryland): Johns Hopkins University Press), and Biodiversity, Ecosystems, and Conservation in Northern Mexico (2005. New York: Oxford University Press).

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.