



GLOBAL CATHOLIC CLIMATE MOVEMENT

October 4, 2019

Today, in the Vatican Gardens, I had the honor of facilitating Pope Francis' first-ever Season of Creation event.

It was amazing. Extremely special.

Together, the pope and leaders from the Church and from indigenous communities planted a tree that will live in the Vatican gardens. The pope chose this day as it's the Feast of St. Francis that brings the Season of Creation to a close.

This is a moment that will remain with me. It was the most special day of my journey with GCCM so far.



During the ceremony, I saw the Church standing side by side with indigenous peoples. I heard the song of birds and the wind moving in the trees. *Most importantly, I felt the Holy Spirit driving the Church forward.*

I wanted to share a few photos from that event with you. **You're an incredibly important part of this movement, and although you weren't with us in person, my thoughts returned again and again to how grateful I am for what we've built together.**

During the event, Pope Francis consecrated the upcoming synod on the Amazon to St. Francis. The tree that was planted is a Holm Oak, the tree reputed to have been at the center of one of St. Francis' famous conversations with creation. These beautiful gestures emphasize that the vulnerable and all of creation are at the center of the synod on the Amazon, which starts Sunday.

We'll share more about that big moment for the Church in the coming weeks, but for now *I simply want to say thank you for being on this journey with us.*

- Tomás Insua, Executive Director, GCCM