



Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3020 • FAX 202-541-3183

EMAIL: SEIAMAIL@USCCB.ORG • WWW.USCCB.ORG

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Dear Hindu friends:

Greetings of peace to you and your families during this festival season of Diwali in which you celebrate the triumph of light!

It is with great joy that I share with you the annual greetings of H.E. Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, the President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, to Hindus around the world.

In this letter—“*Christians and Hindus: Promoting Human Ecology Together*”—Cardinal Tauran reflects on the perennial respect for, and stewardship of, the creation that marks both of our traditions and, in light of this historical fact, he invites us to work closely together “to promote human ecology” and “to foster a rediscovery of the interconnectedness of creation.”

As you may know, this emphasis on ecological justice is a current theme of Pope Francis whose recent encyclical *Laudato Si* strongly encourages Catholics, indeed the world, to adopt without delay a radical vision of stewardship of the environment. What a timely topic for our own dialogue in the United States!

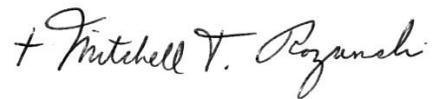
When the environment is poisoned, it seems to me, a great injustice is foisted upon humanity. Not only is human health affected by such abuse but also, and perhaps less appreciated, where the creation is corrupted and stripped of its beauty human beings have less opportunities to encounter God in the world. Creation, as Hindus know so well, is a locus for the human-divine encounter. Let us strive together, therefore, to promote its well-being – such a topic for dialogue and action will benefit human health and support human spirituality.

Finally, I am reminded of the “light” of friendship and hospitality that was so

kindly shown to me and the group of Catholic leaders, which included Cardinal Tauran, at the Durga Temple last May! Allow me to offer once again my gratitude to all of you!

May the joy of this festival season fill your homes and be a blessing of light for your family and friends!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mitchell T. Rozanski".

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
Bishop of Springfield
Chair, Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs