



The 23rd of September, In the Year of Our Lord 2024

*Sent via email*

His Holiness Pope Francis  
Apostolic Palace  
00120 Vatican City

Your Most Holy Father,

Amazon is the world's largest online retailer, with millions of employees worldwide.

Amazon's rapid growth and immense influence have significant implications for global labor standards. Reports consistently reveal:

1. Exploitative working conditions
2. Low wages
3. Anti-union practices
4. Disregard for workers' well-being

I am a high-tech blue collar warehouse worker at SNY5, an Amazon warehouse in Melville, NY. I took this job the Fall of 2022. Initially I was enthralled and found the experience exhilarating. I imagined all the people we were helping out that Christ Mass season: the child who would receive a toy the night before an operation from a beloved family relative, a young lady receiving a gift from a loved one the night before they depart on military duty overseas, the struggling contractor whose job requires that item within hours. Unfortunately, that Christ Mass after expressing my concern regarding safety in the driver's parking lot after an incident, I was told, "We don't care about people getting killed. We have insurance for that." My heart sank that day.

Seeking guidance, board member Bishop Musonda Selwyn Trevor Mwamba and I [prayed over the matter](#). In conversation with my late dear friend and board member William R. MacKaye I was directed to build a union. And I set myself to the task. I am actively engaged in forming a union working with the [International Brotherhood of Teamsters](#) to advocate for better working conditions. Thus, I am writing to bring to your attention the urgent need for workers' rights and unionisation at Amazon here in the United States of America.

As a [faithful advocate](#) for social justice and workers' dignity, I respectfully request Your Holiness's consideration and support in urging those in a leadership position at Amazon to come to table and enter into contract without further delay.

In line with Catholic social teaching, particularly *Rerum Novarum* and *Laudato Si*, I urge Amazon to recognize workers' fundamental right to organize and bargain collectively. Your Holiness has eloquently emphasized the importance of:

1. Protecting workers' rights (Evangeli Gaudium, 205)
2. Promoting social justice and equality (Fraternum et Sororium, 2020)
3. Encouraging fair labor practices (Address to the International Labour Organization, 2014)

I humbly request Your Holiness' public advocacy and support for Amazon workers' unionization efforts here in the United States of America and around the world.

Love and Light in Christ,



Helene de Boissiere Swanson

Cc: Other Various Interested Parties