DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING
INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

LAUDATO SI'

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY YEAR

24 May 2020 – 24 May 2021

On 24 May 2015 Pope Francis signed *Laudato Si'*, the watershed encyclical letter that called world's attention to the increasingly precarious state of our common home. Five years on the encyclical appears ever more relevant. The multiple "cracks in the planet that we inhabit" (LS, 163), from the melting ice caps in the Arctic to the raging wildfires in the Amazon, from extreme weather patterns around the world to unprecedented levels of loss of biodiversity that sustain the very fabric of life, are too evident and detrimental to be ignored any more. Pope Francis' prophetic words continue to ring in our ears: "What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?" (LS, 160) The poor communities around the world are already the early and disproportionate victims of the current ecological degradation and we cannot remain indifferent any longer to the increasingly desperate *"cry of the earth and the cry of the poor"* (LS, 49).

The fifth anniversary of the encyclical comes in the midst of another watershed moment - a global pandemic - and *Laudato Si's* message is just as prophetic today as it was in 2015. The encyclical can indeed provide the moral and spiritual compass for the journey to create a more caring, inclusive, peaceful and sustainable world. We have, in fact, a unique opportunity to transform the present groaning and travail into the birth pangs of a new way of living together, bonded together in love, compassion and solidarity, and a more harmonious relationship with the natural world, our common home. Truly, COVID-19 has made clear how deeply we are all interconnected and interdependent. As we begin to envision a post-COVID world, we need above all an integral approach as "everything is closely interrelated and today's problems call for a vision capable of taking into account every aspect of the global crisis" (LS, 137).

The Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development is happy to announce a **Special Laudato Si' Anniversary Year** from 24th May 2020 – 24th May 2021. We hope that the anniversary year and the ensuing decade will indeed be a time of grace, a true Kairos experience and "Jubilee" time for the Earth, and for humanity, and for all God's creatures. The anniversary year will open with *Laudato Si'* Week 2020, and will proceed with several initiatives, realized in partnership and with a clear emphasis on "ecological conversion" in "action". We invite everyone to join us. The urgency of the situation calls for immediate, holistic and unified responses at all levels - local, regional, national and international. We need, above all, "a peoples' movement" from below, an alliance of all people of good will. As Pope Francis reminds us, "All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents." (LS, 14)

The following is an open-ended list of initiatives for the celebration of the Special *Laudato Si'* Anniversary Year to which we invite you to join us and add your own celebrations within your local communities.

"Laudato Si Week" Global Celebration (16-24 May 2020)

"Common Prayer for Earth and for Humanity" (on 24 May 2020 – fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si'* - at noon everywhere in the world)

Laudato Si' Webinars (29 May and 18 June 2020)

Release of the "Inter-Dicasterial Text with Operational Guidelines for Laudato Si'" (June 2020)

Season of Creation (1 September – 4 October)

Presentation of the Dicastery through the Lens of Laudato Si' (through a series of Webinars to be realized in autumn 2020)

"Reinventing the Global Educational Alliance" (15 October 2020)

"Economy of Francesco" Meeting (21 November 2020)

World Economic Forum, Davos - Third Vatican Roundtable (26-29 January 2021)

(Proposed) **Gathering of Religious Leaders** (early Spring)

World Water Day (22 March 2021)

LAUDATO SI' – Special Anniversary Year Concluding Celebrations

- **Special Anniversary Conference** (20-22 May 2021)
- ***Laudate* Musical Piece with Youth Choirs Worldwide**
- **Conferring of the *Laudato Si'* Awards**
- **Launch of the Laudato Si' Multi-Year Action Platform**

Special Projects to be launched during the Special Anniversary Year:

Documentary Film on Laudato Si'

"Laudato Si' Living Chapels": A Global Platform for Creation Care

Laudato Si' Institutes Network (LISTEN)

Laudato Tree Initiative (led by young people and launched on 10 May 2020)

ECHO: Earth, Our Common Home (Immersive Show on *Laudato Si'*)

Plastic Bank: The Fight against Plastic Pollution

Read the Bible Contest 2020 (First Worldwide Contest on Social Media about the Bible, with special focus on *Laudato Si'*)

LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM

MULTI-YEAR LAUDATO SI' ROLL-OUT PLAN

TO MAKE COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD TOTALLY SUSTAINABLE IN THE SPIRIT OF THE INTEGRAL ECOLOGY OF LAUDATO SI'

During the *Laudato Si'* Special Anniversary Year, there will be the launch of the program and a public commitment from the part of various institutions to begin the 7-year journey to total sustainability in the spirit of *Laudato Si'*.

1. Laudato Si' Families:

(**Families** embarking a 7-year journey towards integral ecology),

2. Laudato Si' Dioceses:

(**Dioceses/Parishes** embarking on a 7-year journey towards integral ecology),

3. Laudato Si' Schools:

(**Schools** embarking on a 7-year journey towards integral ecology),

4. Laudato Si' Universities:

(**Universities/Colleges** embarking on a 7-year journey towards integral ecology),

5. Laudato Si' Hospitals / Health Care Centres:

(**Hospitals/Health Care Centres** embarking on a 7-year journey towards integral ecology),

6. Laudato Si' Businesses/Agricultural Farms, etc.:

(**Businesses/Farms** embarking on a 7-year journey towards integral ecology),

7. Laudato Si' Religious Orders:

(**Religious Orders / Provinces** embarking on a 7-year journey towards integral ecology).

Measuring Integral Ecology in the spirit of Laudato Si'

(Laudato Si' Goals - LSGs)

1. Response to the ***Cry of the Earth*** (greater use of clean renewable energy and reducing fossil fuels in order to achieve carbon neutrality, efforts to protect and promote biodiversity, guaranteeing access to clean water for all, etc.)

2. Response to the ***Cry of the Poor*** (defence of human life from conception to death and all forms of life on Earth, with special attention to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, migrants, children at risk through slavery, etc.)

3. Ecological ***Economics*** (sustainable production, Fair-trade, ethical consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any economic activity harmful to the planet and the people, investment in renewable energy, etc.)

4. Adoption of ***Simple Lifestyles*** (sobriety in the use of resources and energy, avoid single-use plastic, adopt a more plant-based diet and reduce meat consumption, greater use of public transport and avoid polluting modes of transportation, etc.)

5. Ecological ***Education*** (re-think and re-design educational curricula and educational institution reform in the spirit of integral ecology to create ecological awareness and action, promoting the ecological vocation of young people, teachers and leaders of education etc.)

6. Ecological ***Spirituality*** (recover a religious vision of God's creation, encourage greater contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy and gratitude, promote creation-centred liturgical celebrations, develop ecological catechesis, prayer, retreats, formation, etc.)

7. Emphasis on ***Community involvement and participatory action*** to care for creation at the local, regional, national and international levels (promote advocacy and people's campaigns, encourage rootedness in local territory and neighbourhood ecosystems, etc.)

*Implementing the LS Action Platform

We intend to begin in early 2021, by inviting a certain number of the above institutions to begin their 7-year journey of integral ecology in the spirit of *Laudato Si'*. The following year we will encourage a new group, hopefully double the number of the previous group, to begin their 7-year journey, and so on. In this way we are planning to grow a *Laudato Si'* inspired network that continues to expand and grow exponentially each year. This will continue for each of the coming years of the new decade. In this way, we hope to arrive at a "critical mass" needed for radical societal transformation invoked by Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'*.

Institution of the Laudato Si' Awards and Laudato Si' Recognition Scheme

To encourage and promote concerted individual and communitarian action for the care of our common home, and to acknowledge some of the best practices in this regard, from 2021 onwards we will confer the following annual *Laudato Si'* Awards.

1. Outstanding Laudato Si' Leader
   - Outstanding *Laudato Si'* Global Leader
   - Outstanding *Laudato Si'* Local Animator
2. Outstanding Laudato Si' Family
3. Outstanding Laudato Si' Educational Institution
   - Outstanding *Laudato Si'* School
   - Outstanding *Laudato Si'* University/College
4. Outstanding Laudato si' Faith Community
   - Outstanding *Laudato Si'* Parish
   - Outstanding *Laudato Si'* Diocese
   - Outstanding *Laudato Si'* Religious Community
5. Outstanding Laudato si' Action Initiative
   - Outstanding *Laudato Si'* People's Movement
   - Outstanding *Laudato Si'* Youth Initiative
6. Outstanding Laudato si' Economy/Finance/Business/Health/Labour/Agriculture Initiative (in the area of circular and shared economy, regenerative farming, holistic health practices, etc.)
7. Outstanding Laudato si' Communication Initiative (academic publication, artistic production, etc.)

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>
> *-Pope Francis*

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