

# Laudato Si' Action Platform

“Preparing the Future” Together



DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING  
INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



On 24th May 2015, Pope Francis signed his watershed encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*.

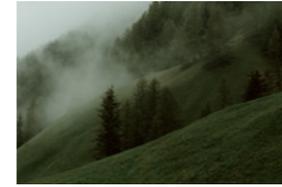
Throughout he points to *"the urgent challenge to protect our common home...to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development"* (LS: 13). He then goes onto appeal to everyone *"for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet"* (LS: 14).

Reflecting back six years on, it has become clear that everything Pope Francis envisioned is at the forefront of our lives: rapid melting of the ice caps in the Arctic, raging wildfires in the Amazon, increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and unprecedented losses of biodiversity that sustain the very fabric of life.

Over this time, greenhouse gas emissions and social inequality has continued to rise, resulting in youth, women, indigenous and minorities organising some of the largest protests in recent history - all demanding immediate change (and rightly so). All the while Pope Francis' words ring louder 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).

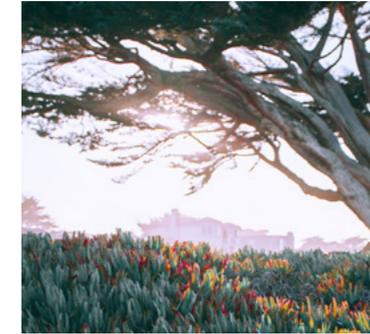
It was in this context that Pope Francis announced a special Laudato Si' Year on 24th May, 2020, on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the encyclical. However, the Laudato Si' year has also coincided with the Covid-19 pandemic. An event that has disproportionately affected the poor, working class and vulnerable groups of society, many of whom were already facing hardship. Therefore, we can no longer remain indifferent to the unnecessary *"cry of the earth and the cry of the poor"* (LS: 49).

Laudato Si' has provided us with the moral and spiritual compass for the journey towards a more caring, inclusive, peaceful and sustainable world. The journey of preparing us for the future will require socio-economic and cultural transformations that allow us to flourish without growth, promote cooperation over competition, seek global solidarity over division, realise participatory processes over reductionist technocratic solutions and adopt lifestyles of sufficiency that mend our strained relationship with the natural world - our common home. This is a window of opportunity we cannot miss.



The science is clear that the recent rise of pandemics, even before Covid-19, are a result of human's current toxic relationship with nature. This pandemic is therefore another stark reminder that human health is strictly linked to that of nature's. The implications of which are so far-reaching that they require nothing less than a fundamental re-evaluation, re-conceptualisation and restructure of our production, trade and consumption systems. In order to realise this transition to a symbiotic relationship with the natural world, we must rise and act together - in unity.

At the end of the Laudato Si' Year, the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development along with our partners is happy to announce the launch of the multi-year project, the Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP).



The LSAP is an action-oriented 7-year ecological conversion journey in the spirit of integral ecology whereby families, parishes and dioceses, educational institutions (school, universities, et al.), hospitals and healthcare centres, economy sector (workers and businesses, farms, co-operatives et al.), organizations and groups (ecological communities, NGOs, lay movements, communication centres, foundations, et al.), religious orders (orders, provinces, communities). Actions will be guided by seven crosscutting Laudato Si' Goals - response to the cry of the earth; response to the cry of the poor; ecological economics; adoption of simple lifestyles; ecological education; ecological spirituality; community engagement and participatory action.



Through a combination of global scientific knowledge, spiritual connections and local realities, the LSAP seeks to empower communities to act in the spirit of Laudato Si' across the globe. It will do so by hosting the platform in at least 9 languages, offering flexible, action-oriented frameworks to spark the bottom-up action needed to care for our common home.



Additionally, with the goal of doubling participants in each sector for seven years, the Dicastery hopes that the LSAP will establish a people's movement from below to contribute to the critical mass needed for radical societal transformations advocated for by Pope Francis. This decade will indeed be a time of grace, a true Kairos experience and "Jubilee" time for

the Earth, humanity and for all God's creatures. 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).

Let the time of transformative action begin!

# Laudato Si' Action Platform

The LSAP is an invitation to undertake an ecological conversion over 7 years. Assisted by a multi-year rollout process, the action platform will be dedicated to assisting local communities on their journey towards integral ecology through actions based on global knowledge and local realities.

LSAP focuses on 7 cross-cutting themes to empower local communities through resource sharing, capacity building and community action in the spirit of integral ecology and Laudato Si'.



# Laudato Si' Goals

The Laudato Si' Goals (LSGs) focus on redefining and rebuilding our relationship with each other and our common home. Their holistic approach acknowledges planetary limits of all socio-economic systems and the human roots of the ecological crisis, calling for a spiritual, and cultural revolution to realise integral ecology.



**The Response to the Cry of the Earth** is a call to equitably address climate change, biodiversity loss and ecological sustainability. Actions could include the adoption of renewable energies, energy efficiency measures, promoting and protecting biodiversity and guaranteeing access to clean water for all.



**The Response to the Cry of the Poor** is a call for global solidarity with special attention given to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, refugees, migrants and children. It is also a defence of human life from conception to death and all forms of life on Earth (nonhuman and nature).



**Ecological Economics** acknowledges that the economy is sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere - our common home. Actions could include prioritising care labour, fossil fuel divestment, ethical investments, introducing complementary currencies, incentivising diverse modes of production (e.g. co-operatives, non-profits, etc).



**The Adoption of Simple Lifestyles** is grounded in the idea of sufficiency (living with just enough and not excess) to ensure a good life for all. Actions here could include limiting flights, reducing meat consumption, adopting a plant-based diet, greater use of public transport, active mobility (walking, cycling) and avoiding single use items (e.g. plastic, etc).



**Ecological Spirituality** encourages greater contact and connections with the natural world in the spirit of wonder, praise, joy, happiness and gratitude. Actions could include promoting creation-centred liturgical celebrations, developing ecological catechesis, prayer, retreats and formations.



**Ecological Education** refers to the need to re-think and re-design curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology to foster ecological awareness and action. Actions here could include making integral ecology across-cutting educational theme across subjects, promoting ecological vocations (students, teachers), ecological restoration activities and clean-up days.



**Emphasis on Community Engagement and Participatory Action** is crucial to care for creation at local, regional, national and international levels. Actions could include promoting advocacy and people's campaigns, encouraging rootedness and a sense of belonging in local communities and neighbourhood ecosystems.

# Laudato Si' Prayers

Alongside our partners, the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development has put together a series of prayers based on the Laudato Si' Goals for communities joining the Laudato Si' Action Platform.

## Sunday Parishes & Dioceses

Lord of Creation, we pray for our parishes and dioceses, that they may be attentive to the Cry of the Earth and promote clean energy, ensure clean air and water for all, protect your creation, and its biodiversity and climate, in particular. May we re-discover our original vocation as carers of our common home and of one another.

## Monday Families

Lover of the poor, we pray for all families that they may be "the place in which life – the gift of God – can be properly welcomed and protected". May they be especially attentive to the Cry of the Poor and work toward the fullness of life for all, especially for the most vulnerable and neglected members of our common family.

## Tuesday Economy

Provident God, help us bring "together the different fields of knowledge, including economics," and promote "new models of integral development". May we work towards a new economic paradigm at the service of common good, "leaving no one behind".

## Wednesday Health Institutions

Caring God, we pray that our institutions, especially our hospitals and health care centres, may grow in the capacity to care. May we all understand and value how concrete gestures and simple lifestyles make it possible for others to live and flourish.

## Thursday Educational Institutions

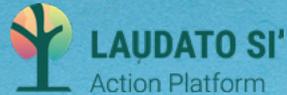
God of Knowledge and Virtue, assist us to "grow in solidarity, responsibility and compassionate care." May our schools and universities, in particular, promote education that can help to restore "harmony within ourselves, with others, with nature and other living creatures, and with God."

## Friday Groups & Organisations

Triune God, help our movements, NGOs, communication centres, and all groups that work for the common good, to develop a spirituality of global solidarity which flows from the mystery of who you are, an interconnected community of love.

## Saturday Religious Orders

God of communion, enable us to become communities of participatory action and advocacy, for the Earth and the poor. Enable our religious communities, in particular, to be prophetic servant leaders in the care of our common home and of the least among us.



# Laudato Si' Action Platform

“ We can no longer blithely accept inequalities and disruptions to the environment. The path to humanity’s salvation passes through the creation of a new model of development, which unquestionably focuses on coexistence among peoples in harmony with Creation ”

- Pope Francis (*God and the World to Come*)

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