



SALVATORIAN FAMILY

JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTERGRITY OF CREATION

Rome, 8 July 2021

On “Salvatorian Involvement for the Care of the Environment in the Light of *Laudato Si*”-
July 31, 2021

Good stewardship of the environment is a challenge based on the principles of justice and peace because the environment is a very important part of human life. This is the essence of the encyclical of Pope Francis, “Laudato Si:” “Praise be to you for the care of the common home,” launched on June 18, 2015 in the Vatican. The Holy Father explores the effects of environmental degradation, the importance of ecological conversion and environmentally friendly technology. He talks about the right to clean and safe water. The environment is a gift from God, a legacy that must be protected, nurtured, and developed, for the welfare, development, and benefit of the many, to uphold human dignity, and fundamental human rights. Conservation of the environment must go hand in hand with accountability and the great advances in science and technology should not be used as economic power to exploit other nations or immerse them in a culture of death. The power of money should be for the welfare, development, and benefits of the many. The international community should create a culture of dialogue, decision, and action together. The fight against corruption and misappropriation of public property is essential in building a network of unity and solidarity of human brotherhood. Environmental stewardship is a process that is rooted in the realities of everyday life.

Pope Francis in his video message as part of the commemoration of the Five Years since the publication of his encyclical, "Laudato Si" in conjunction with the launch of the Laudato Si Platform of Action, LSAP, says that in 2015 he invited the faithful and all people of good will to focus on better care of the environment in the home of all, by ensuring that they make good use of the world's resources and wealth. There has been a lot of environmental damage done to the home of all. The great pandemic of Covid-19 is a challenge for us to listen and respond to the cries of Mother Earth and the cries of the poor. There is a strong connection between good health and the environment in which human beings live. Here is the need to focus on ecological conversion by changing the lifestyle for human ecology, ready to focus on building a new society!

The Holy Father says that the International Community has a great responsibility for future generations, to protect and preserve the environment in the home of all. This is an invitation to get rid of selfishness that leads to the misuse of the world's resources. It is time to build a culture of respect for the gift of creation, by having a new lifestyle, which values the ecology, to prepare young people today and for a better tomorrow, to leave them a thriving garden and not a depressing desert. The Holy Father has announced the launch of the "Laudato si Plaform of Action, LSAP", “...a Seven-Year Journey based on a vision of a closed ecology, by listening to

and responding to the cries of Mother Earth and the cries of the poor; by focusing on the ecosystem established; by immersing themselves in a casual lifestyle in tandem with continuing to focus on education and ecological purity as well as community involvement! It's a journey for hope and renewal of the earth!"

As a Salvatorian Family, we have a responsibility of supporting the Holy Father through our actions by taking care of our common home. In the Year of Blessed Francis Jordan, we can organize different activities which would demonstrate our care for the earth and for the poor. We encourage our Units JPIC commissions to seriously reflect upon *Laudato Si* according to our Constitutions in a prophetic way, publicly and with accountability by ACTIONS in collaborations with those we serve in the Units. When it comes to the care of creation, it is the responsibility of all of us. Our focus can be on the problems of bushfires, harmful mining, plastic pollution, air pollutions, deforestation, waste productions, littering, agricultural pollution, illegal dumping, landfills, resource depletion, etc. These behaviors lead to famine, acidic rain, floods, soil erosion, spread of diseases, global warming, biodiversity loss, economic effects, endangerment of species, etc. The question is how we Salvatorians respond to these challenges in protecting our common home in the light of *Laudato Si*?

The Holy Father says that here there is great hope and if many will participate from each side to contribute to its cultures, abilities, and experiences, the world can change and become a better place to live, according to God's plan. He invites families, parishes, schools, institutions of higher learning and universities, hospitals, places of business and large farms; groups and activists as well as religious institutions to cooperate and unite, to work together, to build a society rooted in: human brotherhood, peace, and a united world.

Alirio Caceres ICDS, from Colombia will facilitate us in this meeting then we will have a time for questions, discussions, and contributions.