

Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation News

Congregation of the Sisters of Bon Secours



Celebrating
Laudato Si'

Fifth Anniversary

May, 2020
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Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs. Laudato Si'

Renewing his "urgent call to respond to the ecological crisis," Pope Francis has invited the 1.3 billion Catholics worldwide to join a week of celebration and action in May commemorating the fifth anniversary of his landmark encyclical "Laudato Si'. Set to take place from May 16-24, the pope has asked the global Catholic community to undertake ambitious actions to address climate change and the mounting environmental perils facing the planet and its people. Five years ago, the Congregation of Bon Secours generously accepted Pope Francis' invitation to undergo an "ecological conversion" and more recently committed ourselves to "Sow Hope for the Planet" by participating in Meatless Mondays, decreasing our use of plastics, conserving water and transitioning from use of fossil fuels. As we commemorate *Laudato Si'* Week in the midst of a global quarantine, perhaps we can use this "pause" for deep and ongoing reflection on the ecological conversion that is taking place within each of us and notice the new Earth-friendly behaviors we are cultivating because we are being transformed interiorly.

Laudato Si' Beatitudes

- † Blessed are those who enter into relationship with the natural world for they will know the intrinsic value of all of God's creation.
- † Blessed are those who heal the wounded Earth for they will be restored to right relationship with all of creation.
- † Blessed are those who repent for life lost at human hands, for they will be forgiven by the Cosmic Christ.
- † Blessed are those who discern the voice of creation for they will receive the will of God in a language not their own.
- † Blessed are those who see with the eyes of their heart for their vision will imagine the potential for new life to emerge.
- † Blessed are those who nurture the needs of the living and non-living world for they will be nourished in body and spirit.
- † Blessed are those who participate in civil affairs for they will bring the cries and songs of Earth to systems of power and policy.
- † Blessed are those who live simply for their discipline will bring harmony to the rhythms of life.
- † Blessed are those who practice gratitude for they will receive the gift of abundance.

Source: Global Catholic Climate Movement & Franciscan Action Network



Reflection

As you pray with these Beatitudes...
Which one do you most desire?
Which one is the most challenging?
Which one do you most practice?
Which one does the world most need for you to cultivate?

May
JPIC Days of Remembrance

May 1
Feast of St. Joseph the Worker
International Workers' Day

May 15
Anniversary of Papal Encyclicals
Rerum Novarum (1891)
Quadragesimo Anno (1931)
Mater et Magistra (1961)

May 16
International Day of
Living Together in Peace

May 16 - 24
Laudato Si' Week
Laudato Si' - Fifth Anniversary

May 22
International Day for Biological
Diversity

May 29
International Day of
United Nations Peacekeepers

Sisters of Bon Secours... Women of healing... defending and caring for all creation (Mission Focus)



Mary Leamy, Meatless Monday - Ireland



Elaine Davia, Composting - USA

"A sound and sustainable ecology, one capable of bringing about change, will not develop unless people are changed, unless they are encouraged to opt for another style of life, one less greedy and more serene, more respectful and less anxious, more fraternal." Pope Francis

How has COVID-19 affected your lifestyle in positive ways? Thank God for those blessings.



"May the relationship between man and nature not be driven by greed, to manipulate and exploit, but may the divine harmony between beings and creation be conserved in the logic of respect and care." — Pope Francis

DESTRUCTION OF HABITAT AND LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY ARE CREATING THE PERFECT CONDITIONS FOR DISEASES LIKE COVID-19 TO EMERGE

A number of researchers today think that it is actually humanity's destruction of biodiversity that creates the conditions for new viruses and zoonotic diseases like COVID-19. The disruption of pristine forests driven by logging, mining, road building through remote places, rapid urbanization and population growth is bringing people into closer contact with animal species they may never have been near before. "We invade tropical forests and other wild landscapes, which harbor so many species of animals and plants — and within those creatures, so many unknown viruses. We cut the trees; we kill the animals or cage them and send them to markets. We disrupt ecosystems, and we shake viruses loose from their natural hosts. When that happens, they need a new host. Often, we are it." Kate Jones, Biodiversity Scientist and Chair of Ecology and Biodiversity, University College London in *Scientific American Magazine*

Laudato Si' in Light of COVID-19

"Our goal is not to amass information, but rather to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it." (#30)

How has COVID-19 made you "painfully aware" of what is happening to Earth, as well as social inequities in health care, education, technology and wealth?

What have you discovered YOU can do about it?

What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? (#160)

What are you willing to sacrifice now for the sake of Earth's children... down to the 7th Generation?

After this pandemic is over, what would you like to see become the "new normal"?

Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change. (#202)

What interior change of heart and change of perspective is COVID-19 inviting from you?

What are you learning about yourself and your needs during this time of global quarantine?



Don't let anyone take away your hope.
Pope Francis

International Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation Committee

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- Eileen Fernandini, CBS Associate (USA)
- Sr. Fran Gorsuch, CBS (USA)
- Camille Grippon (USA; France Liaison)
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