

## ***LAUDATO SI' 2020***

### **Proposals for the Celebration of the 5<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENCYCLICAL *LAUDATO SI'* and the 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE EARTH DAY**

[Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development]

---

## **LAUDATO SI' ROLL-OUT PLAN - 2020 AND BEYOND**

### **MULTI-YEAR PROPOSALS TO MAKE THE VATICAN CITY STATE AND THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD TOTALLY SUSTAINABLE IN THE SPIRIT OF THE INTEGRAL ECOLOGY OF LAUDATO SI'**

The year 2020 marks the fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' encyclical letter on Care for Our Common Home, and the fiftieth anniversary of the Earth Day. The increasingly degrading state of our common home is a cause of serious concern as it raises a serious and unique challenge to the future of human civilization and life on Earth. The report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (8 October 2018) clearly states that humanity has as few as 12 years to ensure that global average temperature does not cross the critical threshold of 1.5°C which could lead to catastrophic consequences. In this context, Pope Francis' prophetic words in the encyclical 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) As the Pope reminds us, "time is running out" and we need to avert "a climate emergency" that risks "perpetrating a brutal act of injustice towards the poor and future generations" (Vatican City, 14 June 2019).

The coming years are indeed crucial. We are the last generation that could and needs to act in order to avoid the crossing of crucial tipping points and avoid irreversible damages to our common home, the abode of humanity and the rest of God's creatures. 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", an alliance of all people of good will, for the care of our common home. This comprises people from churches, faith communities, NGOs and governments involved in ecological, economic, educational and political issues, and civil society, in general. Young people and indigenous communities around the world are already leading this transformative journey and we all need to come together and join hands with them. *Laudato Si'* indeed offers us a moral and religious compass for this common journey ahead. 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)

We believe that 2020 and the following years can indeed be a time of grace, a true *kairos*, a decisive turning point for humanity to come together and act decisively to save our common home. The year 2020 and the following decade could turn out to be a “Jubilee” time for the Earth, a blessed and prolonged “Sabbath” period for Mother Earth to heal and recover after centuries of exploitation and abuse from the part of humanity. In this spirit we propose a set a multi-year projects to transform the Catholic communities around the world totally sustainable in the spirit of the integral ecology of Laudato Si’.

In 2020, on the fiftieth anniversary of the Earth Day and the fifth anniversary of the encyclical, 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’. In 2020, there will be the launching of:

1. **Laudato Si’ Families:**

the **F-50** (fifty (thousand) or more **Families** embarking a 7-year journey towards integral ecology),

2. **Laudato Si’ Parishes:**

the **P-50** (fifty or more **Parishes** embarking a 7-year journey towards integral ecology),

3. **Laudato Si’ Dioceses:**

the **D-50** (fifty or more **Dioceses** embarking a 7-year journey towards integral ecology),

4. **Laudato Si’ Schools:**

the **S-50** (fifty or more **Schools** embarking a 7-year journey towards integral ecology),

5. **Laudato Si’ Universities:**

the **U-50** (fifty or more **Universities** or Colleges embarking a 7-year journey towards integral ecology),

6. **Laudato Si’ Hospitals:**

the **H-50** (fifty or more **Hospitals** or health centres embarking a 7-year journey towards integral ecology),

7. **Laudato Si’ Businesses:**

the **B-50** (fifty or more **Businesses** embarking a 7-year journey towards integral ecology),

8. **Laudato Si’ Cities and Villages:**

the **C-50** (fifty or more **Cities** or **Villages** embarking a 7-year journey towards integral ecology),

9. **Laudato Si’ Agricultural Farms:**

the **A-50** (fifty or more **Farms** or agricultural enterprises embarking a 7-year journey towards integral ecology),

10. **Laudato Si' Religious Orders:**

the **R-50** (fifty or more **Religious Orders / Provinces** embarking a 7-year journey towards integral ecology).

We hope and pray that the above participatory opportunities will grow in an exponential way in the following years involving more and more local communities and institutions, setting the Church and humanity on a long path of ecological renewal. This process could truly contribute to the creation of the ‘people’s movement’, in response to Pope Francis’ invitation in *Laudato Si'* to all people of good will to come together to care for our common home.

**\* Parametres / Metrics for integral ecology in the spirit of *Laudato Si'* (Laudato Si' Goals - LSGs)**

1. Response to the *Cry of the Earth* by ensuring clean renewable energy for all and achieving carbon neutrality, providing access to clean water for all, reducing pollution (Plastic, for example), reducing and recycling waste, etc.
2. Response to the *Cry of the Poor* through special attention to and integration of vulnerable groups like the indigenous communities, minorities, migrants, homeless, sick, elderly, children at risk, etc.
3. Ecological *Economics* through sustainable production in the spirit of spirit of “Circular Economy” of *Laudato Si'*, Fair-trade, ethical consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any economic activity harmful to the planet and the people, attention to the future of work, etc.
4. Ecological *Education* through rethinking and overhauling of educational curricula for greater respect and care for Earth, transforming education centres as a privileged arena for ecological awareness and transformative action, promotion of ecological protagonism from the part of young people, etc.
5. Ecological *Spirituality* through the promotion of creation-centred liturgical celebrations, development and promotion of ecological catechesis in faith formation, etc.
6. Ecological *Conversion* reflected in radical life style changes, sobriety in the consumption of natural resources, adoption of a more plant-based diet and reduction of meat consumption, use of less polluting modes of transportation, etc.
7. Emphasis on *Community involvement and participation*, rootedness in local territory and neighbourhood, care for and promotion of the local cultural and biological diversity, etc.

**\* Linking North and South**

In the above journey of integral ecology we insist on linking communities in the global North and South. For example, a diocese in the global north that would like to become a

*Laudato Si' Diocese* in 7 years, will be asked to team up with and walk together with a diocese in the global south. The same for each of the ten categories listed above.

### \* Exponential growth and expansion

We hope to begin in 2020 with a certain number of the above institutions who will begin their 7-year journey of integral ecology in the spirit of *Laudato Si'*. In 2021, we will encourage a new group, hopefully double the number of the previous group, to begin their 7-year journey and so on. This will go on for each of the coming years of the new decade. In this way, we hope to arrive at the “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 2020, the Vatican will award the annual *Laudato Si'* Awards in the following areas.

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