

April 2023 Franciscan Voice Canada blog
by Andrew Conradi, ofs; JPIC & [Laudato si' Animator](#)



I acknowledge and thank the Lkwungen People for allowing me to live, pray, work, and play on their lands. I am deeply sorry for the injustices inflicted upon the First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Turtle Island by the complicity of Governments & settlers, including the Catholic Church, in the colonialism inherent in the Indian Act and Residential Schools including racism, neglect, many forms of abuse & cultural genocide. I commit to work for truth, healing and reconciliation.

1. COMMUNICATION

[In thanks for 10 years of Francis by Paul Schratz](#)

“Who among us is not affected by a Pope who says, “I dream of an ecclesial communication that knows how to let itself be guided by the Holy Spirit, gentle and at the same time prophetic ... a form of communication founded on humility in listening and *parrhesia* in speaking, which never separates truth from charity.” ”

Franciscan Voice Canada tries to do just that!

2. SHARE LENT

CREATE HOPE - STAND FOR THE LAND

Daniel 4:24b

Atone for your sins by good deeds, and for your misdeeds by kindness to the poor, then your prosperity will be long.



«Vos tenés **la bala**,
yo, **la palabra**.
La bala **muere** al detonarse,
la palabra **vive** al replicarse».

*You have **the bullet**,
I, **the word**.
The bullet on being fired **dies**,
The word **lives** as it is repeated.*
Berta Cáceres.

Don't let Berta's voice be lost!
¡BERTA, PRESENTE!

[Thanks to Phil Little for sending this]

**Did you have the D&P/ Caritas Canada
Share Lent 2023 Symbols of Solidarity
presented at mass?**

***CREATE HOPE - STAND FOR THE LAND
SYMBOLS OF SOLIDARITY***

3rd symbol was a microphone,

which represents the importance of the media in informing people about their rights and how to claim them. One of Development and Peace's partners in Honduras is ERIC, the Equipo de Reflexión, Investigación y Comunicación, the Reflection, Research and Communication Team in English. This Jesuit organization investigates violations of the human rights of the poor and the dispossessed. It helps communities defend territories that are being threatened by large-scale profit-driven economic projects. It supports and accompanies those who are unjustly criminalized for defending their rights. ERIC also produces radio programs that promote freedom of expression and the right to information and provide reliable information on the problems that local communities face.

The director of Radio Progreso-ERIC, Fr Ismael Moreno, SJ (Padre Melo) said:

“If you don’t see things from the viewpoint of the groups whose rights are being constantly violated and whose freedom of expression has been taken from them, then tell me: where is the Christian gospel?”

Padre Melo has been internationally recognised not only by communities but also by governmental groups, churches, universities and global civil society organisations.





*Ismael Moreno Coto, S.J., popularly known as **Padre Melo** with environmental activist Berta Cáceres, a land defender, who was murdered in 2016.*
<https://ignatiansolidarity.net/blog/2016/03/07/pain-and-rage-for-the-loss-of-berta-caceres/>

For the inspiring story of this brave man, Padre Melo:
<https://jesuits.ca/stories/padre-melo-welcoming-the-good-news-whenever-it-is/>

Berta Cáceres, a brave Lenca indigenous woman and winner of the 2015 Goldman prize for environmental defenders, was shot dead two days before her 45th birthday by hired hitmen on 2 March 2016 after years of threats linked to her fearless work to defend the Gualcarque River, its surrounding environment and people and her & their opposition to the 22-megawatt Agua Zarca dam. Read more:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jul/05/berta-caceres-assassination-roberto-david-castillo-found-guilty>

In Canada the Wet'suwet'en also want to protect the Wedzin Kwa (Morice River) and face legal and RCMP enforcement of injunctions sought by Coastal Gas Link whose project goes against the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples — something both the province and federal governments support — by violating the community's ability to provide free, prior and informed consent.



*Metro Convention Centre, Toronto during
Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada's (PDAC) 2023.
Photo: Mining Injustice Solidarity Network (MISN)*

Twelve Wet'suwet'en land defenders have applied to the Supreme Court of British Columbia to have criminal contempt charges stayed following RCMP raids in 2021. "Society is rightly concerned with [how a special unit of RCMP \(C-IRG\)](#) acts with impunity, using racist language and violence against unarmed Indigenous women. Now it's in the court's hands to decide if this is still acceptable in 2023," said Sleydo' (Molly Wickham), spokesperson for the Gidimt'en Checkpoint and one of the 12. They cite widespread Charter violations stemming from police misconduct as the reasoning. The court applications allege an "abuse of process" and highlight the RCMP's use of "disproportionate and excessive force" in November 2021. Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs said the company doesn't have consent to cross their territory. In an explainer, [The Indigenous Foundation](#) writes that "the pipelines violate Wet'suwet'en sovereignty and put both the land and women of the Wet'suwet'en Nation at risk."

Doctrine of Discovery formally repudiated by Vatican

The Doctrine of Discovery was a legal framework based on 15th century papal bulls that gave early Christian explorers permission to conquer, displace and enslave non-Christian Indigenous Peoples.

The Dicastery for Culture and Education, and the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development [released a statement](#) 30 March 2023 clarifying, with emphasis, that "The 'doctrine of discovery' is not part of the teaching of the Catholic Church." They rejected the "doctrine of discovery" that was used to justify centuries of colonialism.

Whose law?

In 1997, the Supreme Court of Canada affirmed the Wet'suwet'en never gave up their Rights and Title to the territory in a landmark case called [Delgamuukw-Gisdaywa](#).

Yet on 28 March 2023 [five people were arrested](#) by the RCMP after being told there was no obligation for them to provide access to consult legal counsel prior to a search under a warrant issued by the B.C. courts, land defenders told The Narwhal. After a few seconds and a brief back-and-forth exchange, several officers moved in and started the arrests, mainly of women, for obstruction.

[CBC](#): 9 March 2023, the RCMP's federal watchdog agency [launched an investigation into the Community-Industry Response Group](#) (C-IRG), a special unit policing protests against resource extraction in B.C. The Civilian Review and Complaints Commission (CRCC), which receives and oversees public grievances against the Mounties, said it would be examining whether the unit's operations are consistent with the Charter, legislation on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People as well as the findings of the national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.



A group of supporters pictured at the encampment located just before the RCMP access control checkpoint at kilometre 27 of the Morice West Forest Service Road on Feb. 5, 2020 show their support for the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs in their fight against CGL. (Trevor Hewitt photo, Hope Standard)

3.



LAUDATO SI' LENT

OK Lent is over but on the Laudato Si' Movement Lent 2023 Calendar:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16TxTW9oCnykqgdjP0kB6ogRxmpW0sljU/view>

Week 3, March 7:

“Every purchase is a moral act” (Pope Francis)

Make My Money Matter Presents ... No Nasty Surprises

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ZOT3biylqU> only a *humorous* 1 min 15 secs
followed by

Make My Money Matter presents ... the world's first Net Zero Pension Summit

On 1st June 2021, Make My Money Matter hosted the world's first Net Zero Pension Summit. Co-hosted by Briton Richard Curtis and Canadian Mark Carney – and featuring senior leaders from the financial world – the summit discussed how the \$50 trillion invested by pension funds globally can help tackle the climate emergency.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDnd2Wl0I2E> A bit *longer* at 1 hr 50 mins! Oh well!

4. POPE'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY



Photo (sculptor's name not given!): [OFM MG letter re 6th World Day of the Poor](#)



Friar Daniel Rodríguez Blanco, OFM thanks Pope Francis for 10 things

- 1) Your name Francis, just like that
- 2) Your humility and simplicity
- 3) Return to the centrality of the Gospel
- 4) The tenderness and vigour with which you govern the Church
- 5) The gift of a year dedicated to mercy
- 6) You have made the peripheries the centre of the Church
- 7) Wanting a fraternal world and a fraternal Church
- 8) Entering into a synodal process
- 9) The recognition of martyrdom in Latin America and other continents
- 10) You challenge Franciscans to live their charisma and mission

[Read more](#)

CHECK THESE OUT:

http://www.ofmjp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/EN_Global_OFM_LaudatoSi.pdf
http://www.ofmjp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/8_the_cry_of_the_earth_and_the_CRIES_OF_THE_POOR_2016.pdf

5. POPE FRANCIS ON WOMEN

What he has done, what he has not done, will not do

[Women's way: Pope opens path for more women at Vatican, in church](#)

In his 10 years as pontiff, Pope Francis Pope Francis has sought to include more women in the work and governance of Vatican commissions and Roman Curia offices. Today there are 1,165 women working at the Vatican compared to 846 in 2013, making up 23.4% of the total workforce, according to Vatican News March 8 [*International Women's Day*]. When it comes to roles in the Roman Curia, more than one in four employees is now a woman.

Within the Curia, five women hold the rank of undersecretary, and one has the rank of secretary: Salesian Sister Alessandra Smerilli, whom the pope appointed to the No. 2 position at the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development in 2021 [*whose Prefect is Cardinal Michael Czerny, SJ, a Canadian*]. It is the highest post ever held by a woman at the Holy See.

The pope has said he intends to appoint the first female prefect now that it is possible for laypeople, and, therefore, women, to lead dicasteries, according to "Praedicate Evangelium," the pope's constitution reforming the Curia.

Pope Francis has also, for the first time, appointed women as full members of Vatican dicasteries, when previously that role was reserved to cardinals and some bishops. Members play a key role and vote along with prefects and secretaries at plenary assemblies.

So, while the pope has been bringing more women to "a place at the table" in Rome, he also has opened up new ways for women's voices to be heard.

Reuters: "I like to think that if women could enjoy full equality of opportunity, they could contribute substantially to the necessary change towards a world of peace,

inclusion, solidarity and integral sustainability," the pope said. Francis has condemned discrimination against women in the past but, like his predecessors, he has ruled out a female priesthood. The Catholic Church teaches that only men can become priests because Jesus chose men as his apostles."

[The evolution of Pope Francis on women: some movement, but more needed](#)

"When it comes to the broad topic of women, many "Francis Catholics" are able to accept his so-called "blind spot," because in other ways he models the Vatican II values they long to see. For others, it is not merely a weakness but a misogynistic betrayal of the Gospel that deprives the church, causes great spiritual harm and furthers the oppression of women globally.

Francis' approach to appointing women has been piecemeal.

In 2021, he [changed canon law](#) to allow for the installation of all laypeople into the ministries of acolyte and lector, and formalized the ministry of catechist, [opening](#) it to all laypeople. [*Not a big deal, merely regularising what was already common & widespread in many places including Canada.*]

Perhaps more celebrated, in 2016, he [listened](#) to the women religious of the International Union of Superiors General, or UISG, who asked him to further study the possibility of women deacons. He has since [convened](#) two papal commissions to take up this question, and while the process is clear as mud, the ordination of women is a question under review at the Vatican. ... How can such a pastoral man not hear the cries of women in his own church? What encounter informed him to characterize women's ordination advocates as operating from a "spirit of the isolated conscience," as he wrote in [Let Us Dream](#)? How can he call for women's rights in society and not scrutinize his own role as the supreme leader of the largest patriarchy in the world?

I remember the first time a priest mentioned the word "synodality" over a dinner in Rome and to be honest, I didn't understand why the bishops needed a fancy concept for collegiality behind closed doors. But Francis has imbued meaning into that word for me by modeling it.

Now, synodality can feel like justice deferred for those most in need. And for women, it can feel like a dressed up way of saying *slow down with all that equality business, ladies*.

But today women are appointed to Vatican positions without a headline, cardinals and bishops are openly discussing the question of women's ordination to the diaconate and priesthood, and at the very least, there are increasing opportunities for the voices of women to be heard. And if there are opportunities for women's voices to be heard, at least we have a pope who has shown he knows how to listen every now and again."

Read more at: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2023-03/pope-pens-preface-on-more-women-leadership-for-better-world.html>

[But see also:](#) Top expert resigns from Vatican committee against child sex abuse

The founder and all-female editorial board of the Vatican's women's magazine have quit after what they say was a Vatican campaign to discredit them and put them "under the direct control of men," that only increased after they denounced the sexual abuse of nuns by clergy. [Read more](#)

Personally, I, Andrew, am in favour of women's ordination. As a layman this applies to me: Canon 212 §3. "According to the knowledge, competence, and prestige which they possess, they have the right and even at times the duty to manifest to the sacred pastors their opinion on matters which pertain to the good of the Church and to make their opinion known to the rest of the Christian faithful, without prejudice to the integrity of faith and morals, with reverence toward their pastors, and attentive to common advantage and the dignity of persons."

<https://www.mothercabrini.org/news-and-publications/is-new-life-ahead-in-the-church-an-article-by-sr-ilia-delio/> :

"It is no secret that even the best medieval theologians, such as Thomas Aquinas and Bonaventure [*ouch!*], held that women do not have fully formed intellects, an idea that can be traced back to the philosophy of Aristotle. ... Thomas Aquinas was a brilliant 13th century theologian who contributed to the church a vast corpus of theological insights. However, by making his doctrine official teaching, the church turned a deaf ear to modern science and to other theological ideas, such as the notion of the [primacy of Christ](#) formulated by the Franciscan theologian Duns Scotus.

Although the Catholic Church has supported modern science, reflected by the Vatican's Pontifical Academy of Sciences, it has not adopted the principal scientific shifts of modern biology, evolution or quantum physics, despite the fact that these areas are pillars of modern science. As a result, the official theology of the church is based on the ancient cosmology of Ptolemy and the medieval Thomistic-Aristotelian metaphysical synthesis."

<https://www.ncronline.org/blogs/grace-margins/evolution-ilia-delio> :

Born Denise Delio in 1955 ... she became a Carmelite. They gave Delio her name. "Ilia" is the Greek feminine translation of Elijah, the prophet who, according to the Hebrew Scriptures, ascended Mount Carmel to challenge 450 prophets of the false god Baal. After four years in the cloister, she requested a leave and was sent to discern with the Franciscans in North Plainfield, N.J.* Though they, too, wore the habit and followed a somewhat regimented life, they had an openness to the world that Delio found freeing. Delio redid her novitiate and joined the Franciscans, [and] now belongs to a religious community that attempts to live out religious life as an open system. Known as the Franciscans of Washington, D.C., it is a small community of vowed women who seek to vitalize the Franciscan charism in the 21st century.

"After a young adulthood spent trying to transcend the world, Delio now wants to be immersed in it. "The Franciscan way is the way of the concrete," she says, "seeing the love of God in the leper, among the flowers and birds, in the moon. Francis taught us a consciousness of God in the concrete." "

The word "universal" does not adequately capture the rich meaning of *katholikos* as the ancient Greeks used it. "*Katholikos* means 'through the whole' or 'throughout the whole,' " she says. "It connotes an active consciousness of the whole or a seeking to make whole."

See: <http://womensordinationcampaign.org/the-case-for-womens-ordination> and <https://womenpriests.org> and <https://www.brancavalic.com/blog/roman-catholic-women-ordination/>

I think though that the Pope has to move very carefully and even slowly on this to avoid schism. Step by step, which he seems to be doing.

St Photine, pray for us!

Saint Photine was the Samaritan woman that Christ met at Jacob's Well in Samaria as recorded in the Gospel according to John (4:4-26). After her encounter with Christ, she and her whole family were baptized by the Apostles and became evangelists of the early Church.

6. ECUMENISM



**LAUDATO SI'
MOVEMENT**
Catholics for Our Common Home



**SEASON OF
CREATION**

SEASON OF CREATION 2023

1 September- 4 October

LET JUSTICE AND PEACE FLOW

“Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream.”

Amos 5:24

The cry of creation on the loss of biodiversity

#SeasonofCreation 2023 ecumenical theme launch video (6 min 9 secs)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgAbavjkTik&embeds_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fseasonofcreation.org%2F&feature=emb_logo

Start thinking and planning now! What can you and your fraternity and/or parish do?
Too hard?

Consider this: God lets us know if a flower can rise up between a rock and a hard place we too can do the seemingly impossible! We never fail until we stop trying! Persevere!



Source: Garden Daily Ideas, 7 March 2023

7. OUR COMMON HOME

A guide to caring for our living planet.

A joint initiative of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development &

the Stockholm Environment Institute.

<https://www.sei.org/publications/ourcommonhome/#our-common-home>

20 pages each Topic only 2 pages and nice pictures

Well worth checking out and deciding how to use.

Each Topic includes the following short sections:

A quote from Laudato Si'; A description; What needs to change; and Let's take action.

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Our common home Our climate Our living planet

Our water Our air Our food Our consumption

Our shared future

Many things have to change course

Call for pension funds to stop investing in fossil fuels (video 2:16)

<http://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2183431747698>

see Andrew's March blog for suggested letters

Dr Lorna Gold, Laudato Si' Movement Board Chair, 20 March 2023 Twitter:



Lorna Gold - #LaudatoSi Film
@gold_lgold

...

It's quite simple really. Re-sharing my doodle from 2019 [#IPCC](#) report [#ClimateEmergency](#). In that time we *may* have shifted policy promises to yellow but in reality we are still heading to pink.... we all need to act NOW!

[Traducir Tweet](#)

