

## Global Catholic Climate Movement Webinar, May 16-24, 2020

### Theme: **Everything is Connected**

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The first 2 days were a retreat "Praying with creation." The retreat goal was based on Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si." The ecological crisis is also a summons to profound "interior conversion" (LS # 217) whereby the effects of our encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in our relationship with the world around us. With St. Francis of Assisi, we come to realize that a healthy relationship with creation is one dimension of our overall relationship with our Creator; including recognition of our errors, sins, faults and failures which leads to heartfelt repentance and desire to change.

God created a wonderful Earth for us to live in and enjoy its beauty. Our Sister Mother Earth, sustains and govern us as we use the resources provided which include various fruits, herbs and spices used as medicines to build our immune systems; flowers to inspire us and give joy to our soul.

Christina Leano, one of the retreat moderators of GCCM, told us the webinar was attended by 497 participants from all over the world, and instructed attendees to plunge their hands into a bowl of water and asked through CHAT BOX ZOOM "what do you feel?"

As summarised (in Gen. 2.7) our bodies are made up of Sister Mother Earth's elements: we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters. Water signifies the cry of the poor, the marginalized, maltreated and abandoned.

GCCM panellists offered spiritual guidance as follows:

- 1) St. Francis heard a voice from God, "Francis go and repair my Church "  
"Laudato Si, mi signore" (Praised be you, my Lord) - the original words of St. Francis when he wrote Canticle of Creatures in answer to this call, a year before he died.
- 2) 800 years later Pope Francis wrote an encyclical "Laudato Si': on care for our common home."  
Pope Francis referred to the name St. Francis of Assisi 6x. and St. Francis 7x. in his encyclical. St. Francis must be a somebody!

The encyclical is relevant today to our ecological crisis as we are at a crossroads facing the effects of ecosystem imbalances, and evolution and occurrence of viruses, bacteria and previously unknown diseases, both human and animal accompanied by malnutrition for the poor and underprivileged, migration problems, injustices, discrimination, and inequality.

Observe, feel the signs and listen. [See, judge, act]

As Pope Francis wrote:

Faced with a climate emergency, we must take action accordingly.

GCCM practical suggestions: We must go slow and fast simultaneously.

1) Spiritual dimensions – undergo ecological conversion. It begins with me, through our actions there is a chance of following.

- a) **Meditation** – on **Words of God: Words of life**. As we meditate on the Words of God we come to know the things of God and building a relationship with God's creation. The presence of God in every creature as noted by St. Francis. [OFS Rule #18: universal kinship with creation]
- b) **Contemplation** - Inhaling and exhaling (an exercise).

Realizing the element of air going into our body as  
“God’s breathe to give life “.

- c) **Prayer** - for ecological conversion. (LS # 218) We pray for humility.  
Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork  
is essential to a life of virtue. (LS #217)

**Laudato Si Chaplet** based on “**Canticle of Creatures**” written  
by Saint Francis a year before he died:

Praying the “Chaplet of Laudato Si” develops in us the appreciation of God’s creation.

- 1) Praised be you my Lord through Sister Air x 10
- 2) Praised be you my Lord through Sister Water x 10
- 3) Praised be you my Lord through Brother Fire x 10
- 4) Praised be you my Lord through Mother Earth x 10
- 5) Praised be you my Lord through your creation as a gift x 10
- 6) Praised be you my Lord through your gifts of thanksgiving x10
- 7) Praised be you my Lord through your praises x 10.

**Watch and listen to the Beatitudes inspired by Laudato Si:**

[the beatitudes inspired by laudato si' - youtube](#)

- 2) **Lifestyle dimension** –shrink our footprint. Recycle and re-use  
(OFS Rule # 11) Live more simply. Only buy what we need.  
Laudato Si Pledge.

- 3) **Societal dimension** - raise our voices for bold public policies. [LS #179]

(LS #231) In this framework, along with the importance of little everyday gestures, social love  
moves us to devise larger strategies to halt environmental degradation and to encourage a  
“culture of care “which permeates all of society.

When we feel that God is calling us to intervene with others in these social dynamics, we  
should realize that these too is part of our spirituality, which is an exercise of charity and as  
such matures and sanctifies us.

Problems with sustainability are covered in LS # 194.

For new models of progress to arise, there is a need to change  
“model of global development,” this will entail responsible  
reflection on meaning of the economy and its goal to an eye to  
correcting its malfunction and misapplication.

To summarize a week’s event of spiritual growth, we Franciscans cannot escape from people’s  
great expectations. This causes great shame if we shy away from this challenge. I’m afraid the  
world may consider us false Franciscans, worse than non- biodegradables, unworthy of financial  
support and attention.

It is high time for us to share how we and our communities are trying to live  
authentically the ideals of St. Francis. Now is the time to show our worth.

Let us stand tall like St. Francis, in our common home through our bold and joyful  
Franciscan witnessing in words and actions and in our simple lifestyle in the global economy.