



FDNSC united together for JPIC

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2020

JPIC Bulletin, No 17, May

Dear Sisters and Friends,



Greetings from Italy, a nation on lockdown. Because of the Coronavirus, all businesses except pharmacies and food stores have shut their doors here. Airlines are cancelling flights, and roadblocks prevent people from leaving or entering some towns. We also had to postpone our General Chapter and therefore we, as a General Council, are still in office. So, I started to think about what to write in my next JPIC Bulletin.

Pope Francis came to my help by announcing the *Laudato Si* Week.

Some people tried to see some light in this Coronavirus crisis. They said that as schools and businesses close their doors and people spend more time at home, reduced travel could temporarily drive down carbon emissions. Scientists are not so sure about this because while being at home, people could be using more energy. This depends largely on weather conditions, geography and different family lifestyles, they say. Therefore, I would like to focus in this Bulletin on the *Laudato Si* Week, how we can play our part in caring for our common home.

In this Bulletin, you will find an article about the *Laudato Si* Week, with concrete suggestions to act. This is followed by "Did you know", which tells you about actions undertaken within our own Chevalier Family. This is followed by the Events on the World Calendar for JPIC and we will end with a prayer. Hopefully, this Bulletin will stimulate many of us to take action. I would be very happy if in the next Bulletin we could report on some of those actions. So please, let me know when you have something to share!!

Plans for Fifth Anniversary of Laudato Si

Renewing his "urgent call to respond to the ecological crisis," Pope Francis invited the 1.3 billion Catholics worldwide to join a week of celebration and action in May commemorating the fifth anniversary of his encyclical "*Laudato Si*", *on Care for Our Common Home*." This encyclical was signed by Pope Francis on May 24, 2015, and was released a month later on June 18. It was the first papal encyclical devoted entirely to church teaching on the environment and human ecology. In a video message on March 3 2020, Pope Francis officially announced *Laudato Si*' Week, set to take place on **May 16-24**. The pope has asked the global Catholic community to undertake



in this week ambitious actions to address the mounting environmental perils facing the planet and its people — climate change; ecosystems in the Amazon, Australia and the Arctic approaching tipping points; and the unprecedented threat of biodiversity loss facing 1 million plant and animal species. The one-minute video opens with soaring images of mountains cloaked by clouds as Pope Francis repeats a question he first posed in *Laudato Si'*: "What kind of world do we want to leave to those who will come after us, to children who are growing up?" "I renew my urgent call to respond to the ecological crisis," the pope continues. "The cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor cannot continue. Let's take care of creation, a gift of our good Creator God. Let's celebrate *Laudato Si'* Week together." (If you want to see the video, go to:



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHlzOWp8ZQY&feature=emb_logo)

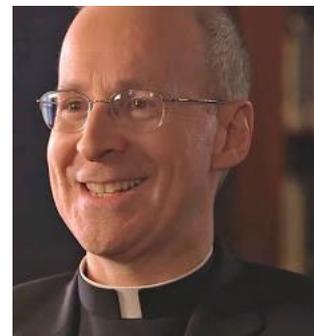
The Executive Director of the Global Catholic Climate Movement, Tomás Insua said: "Pope Francis is calling us to return to the core of who we are as Christians: people who love our neighbours as ourselves. The climate catastrophe is increasing the risk of hunger, sickness, and conflict for our most vulnerable neighbours. Every minute we spend warming the planet is a tragedy for the most vulnerable. Pope Francis is urgently calling us to act on the values of our faith, here and now."

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHlzOWp8ZQY&feature=emb_logo)

In his own response to the Amazon synod, *Querida Amazonia*, Pope Francis wrote: "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 lifestyle, one less greedy and more serene, more respectful and less anxious, more fraternal."

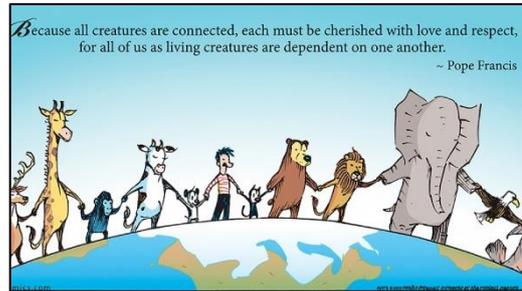
Let us, with Father James Martin S.J., recall what the **top 10 messages of *Laudato Si'*** are:

1. The encyclical gives an overview of the environmental crisis from a religious point of view. Until the release of the encyclical, the dialogue about the environment was mainly framed in political, scientific and economic language.
2. The disproportional effects of the environmental change on the poor is strongly highlighted on nearly every page of the document and the pope provides many examples of the effects of climate change whose worsts impacts are felt by those in developing countries.
3. Pope Francis criticised the technocratic mindset where technology is seen as the key to human existence. He criticised an unthinking reliance on market forces in which every technological advancement is embraced, before thinking about how it will affect our world. Christian spirituality, by contrast, offers a growth marked by moderation and a capacity to be happy with little.
4. Against those who argue that the papal Encyclical has no authority, Pope Francis explicitly stated that *Laudato Si'* is now added to the Church's social teachings.
5. Discussions about ecology can be grounded in the Bible and Church traditions. In chapter 2, Pope Francis introduces the Gospel of Creation, leading readers to the call to care for creation that extends as far back as the book of Genesis, when humankind



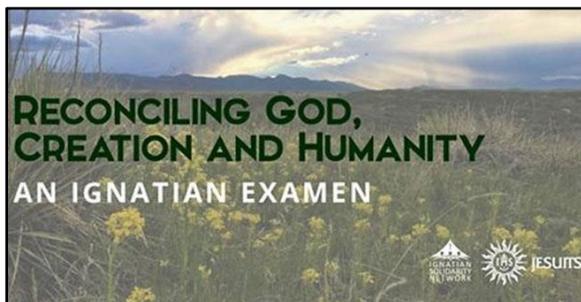
was called to till and keep the Earth. But sadly we have done too much tilling and not enough keeping.

6. Everything is connected. *Laudato Si* is a systematic approach to the problem. First, the Pope links all of us to creation. We are a part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it. Our actions have an inevitable effect on our environment. Blind pursuit of money that sets aside the interests of the poor and marginalized and the ruination of the planet are connected.



7. Pope Francis does not try to prove anything about climate change; rather his encyclical accepts the best scientific research available today and builds on it. So *Laudato Si* draws on both Church teachings and contemporary scientific findings from all fields to help modern-day people reflect.
8. Pope Francis criticised those who ignore the promptings of climate change and especially its effect on the poor. Why are so many of the wealthy turning away from the poor? Not only because some people consider themselves more worthy than others, but also because frequently decisionmakers are removed from the poor, with no physical connection to their brothers and sisters. Selfishness also leads to the evaporation of the notion of the common good.
9. Perhaps more than any encyclical Pope Francis draws from the experiences of people from around the world, referring to the findings of Bishops' conferences. The Pope involved all people in the dialogue about our Common Home.
10. Finally, this encyclical is addressed to everyone on the planet and calls for a new way of looking at things. We face an urgent crisis. Even when the earth has begun more and more to look like an immense pile of filth, still the document is hopeful, reminding us that, because God is with us, all of us can strive to change towards an ecological conversion in which we can listen to the cry of the earth and the poor.

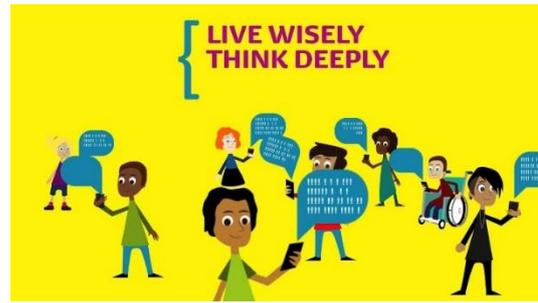
What can we do?



In practising the **Ecological Examen** “**Reconciling God, Creation and Humanity**”, we can cultivate a greater sensitivity to the needs of creation and actions for the common good. Here is a summary of the Examen:

1. I give thanks to God for creation and for being wonderfully made. *Where did I feel God’s presence in creation today?*
2. I ask for the grace to see creation as God does – in all its splendour and suffering. *Do I see the beauty of creation and hear the cries of the earth and the poor?*
3. I ask for the grace to look closely to see what impact my life choices have on creation, the poor and the vulnerable. *What challenges or joys do I experience as I recall my care for creation? How can I turn away from a throwaway culture and instead stand in solidarity with creation and the poor?*

4. I ask for the grace of conversion towards ecological justice and reconciliation. *Where have I fallen short in caring for creation and my brothers and sisters? How do I ask for a conversion of heart?*
5. I ask for the grace to reconcile my relationship with God, creation and humanity, and to stand in solidarity through my actions. *How can I repair my relationship with creation and make choices consistent with my desire for reconciliation with creation?*
6. I offer a closing prayer for the earth and the vulnerable in our society: The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me”. (Jn. 17:22-23).



For a virtual experience of the Eco-Examen, go to <http://www.ecologicalexamen.org/>

Other suggestions are:

1. Discuss this article and consider what you can do as a community. You could use the Eco Checklist that Sr. Marife has sent the Provinces after the 2016 APA Conference in Kiribati about Climate Change. Make personal and/or communal commitments and evaluate them after four months.
2. Start Reading or re-reading *Laudato Si* in the community, in the parish or school where you have your ministry.
3. Join us in our First Friday Prayer for JPIC and share our messages.
4. Visit the special website for the *Laudato Si* Week to see what actions others are taking or to share your action. Go to <http://laudatosiweek.org/>

Let us make an effort to change and to adopt more simple and respectful lifestyles!

Did you know

1. Together with the MSC and MSC Sisters, this year we started a new cycle of Facebook Actions on the First Friday of the month. I put together the texts. Every Action consists of three points: bringing to our awareness, praying and acting. Father André Claessens translates the actions into French and Sr. Juana into Spanish. Father Humberto ensures that the action of each month is presented in a modern form. Our associate Rita Cleuren wrote: “We share the Facebook Action among the members of the Chevalier Family in our regions. Debbie from the Philippines and Perpetua from PNG ensured me that they send the message to the associates who are responsible for certain groups, just as I do in Belgium. The proposed actions are achievable for everybody. Taking care of His Creation is more than ever necessary at this moment. It is a challenge for each of us to care together for our Common Home! It also creates a bond between all the



members of our big Chevalier family!” Our associate Alison McKenzie brings the message to some schools where they use it as a new form of practising the first Friday devotion.

2. Here are the Actions for the next months. (To see the attractive layout, go to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/FDNSCJusticeandPeace/?ref=settings> . We will publish the new message every Wednesday before the First Friday)

“The very crisis of our times requires an ecological conversion that can inspire us to greater creativity and enthusiasm in resolving the world’s problems.” Pope Francis.
As Chevalier Family, we are concerned about Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation in our world. We want to show this in the month of

May by:



Bringing to our awareness that human beings are the greatest threat to the survival of endangered species through poaching, habitat destruction and by causing climate change.

Praying (the rosary) that we become more caring for all creatures and our earth, so that we respect, restore and renew the gifts of creation.

Acting: we suggest to celebrate World Diversity

Day on May 22 and to do research on the Internet to learn which beautiful creatures are most in need of our help, protection and conservation.

June by:

Bringing to our awareness the sufferings of those who are being abused through the practice of human trafficking.

Praying (the rosary) for those who are victims of human trafficking. May God free them, heal their wounds and convert the hearts of those who have committed these crimes.

Acting: we suggest to investigate one product that we consume, for example, chocolate, coffee etc. and educate ourselves on how the production and availability of the product may involve human trafficking.



July by:



Bringing to our awareness the sufferings of those who are addicted to alcohol, drugs, internet, computer games, cell phones and the consequences of these behaviours.

Praying (the rosary) that the Lord may hear the cry of people struggling with addictions; that He may reveal to them the right people to go to for help and give them the strength to recover.

Acting: we suggest that you choose to review your use of one of the following: alcohol, drugs, internet, computer or cell phone for one week. Are you able to limit it in the next week?

August by:

Bringing to our awareness the prevalence and consequences of domestic violence.

Praying (the rosary) for all those who suffer from domestic violence. That God may guide us in vigilance so that we may recognize those who need our assistance.



Acting: we suggest to discuss the following question. Around the world, at least 119 countries have passed laws on domestic violence. 125 have laws on sexual harassment and 52 have laws on marital rape. Do you think the law does enough to protect victims? What protections exist where you live?

3. When it was Sr. Laurentia's turn to pray on the First Friday, she downloaded our Facebook Message on her cell phone and used it in our evening prayer.

4. Sitting adjacent to St. Peter's Square next to the Vatican, Pope Francis let a beautiful 19th-century palace be converted into a shelter for the homeless. A member of the Sant' Egidio Community is in charge of the Palazzo Migliori, which has 16 dormitories and enough space for roughly 50 homeless men and women. Our Sisters Madeleine and Merle went there as volunteers to serve breakfast in the months of January and February.



5. After the launch of the English translation of the human rights report made by JPIC Offices in West Papua "Papua: the Neglected Paradise" the book has been presented



to the Holy Father, Pope Francis and to the Secretary of State Cardinal Parolin. The two leaders in the Vatican both expressed their awareness of the current issues and their support for our efforts. On February 19 the report was presented to the JPIC Coordinators of religious Congregations in Rome. Sr. Elly was one of the presenters. After the meeting, the members of West-Papua Network went to the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development to hand the report to Mr Tebaldo

Vinciguerra, Bishop George and Bishop Bernard Munono.

The Events on the World Calendar for JPIC

May 3, World Press Freedom Day: celebrates the fundamental principles of press freedom, to evaluate press freedom around the world, to defend the media from attacks on their independence and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession.

Prayer: With St. Francis de Sales, patron saint of writers and journalists we pray that God may strengthen and direct them to be bold to confront evil and injustice, to be compassionate and understanding of human weaknesses; rejecting the half-truth which deceives and the slanted word which corrupts.



May 22, International Day for Biological Diversity: the theme for this year will be: “Our Solutions are in Nature.” It suggests that Biodiversity is the answer to several sustainable development challenges that we face. From nature-based solutions to climate, food and water security and sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity remains the basis for a sustainable future.



Prayer: We pray for the Church: that she may be a beacon of hope throughout the world, reminding us all of our responsibility to care for and protect God’s precious gift of creation.

June 5, World Environment Day: This day is widely celebrated in more than 143 countries. The popular name is “People’s Day” because they are urged to show their care and support for the Earth and their environment. Knowing the ways to protect the environment is very important.

World Environment Day 2020



Prayer: We pray for the world, our common home:

that through God’s grace we may hear its cry because of the damage done and be motivated to protect it for future generations to enjoy.

June 20, World Refugee Day: In a world where violence forces thousands of families to flee for their lives each day, it is now time to show that the global public stands with refugees.



Prayer: God, whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own, look with mercy on those who, homeless and hungry, are fleeing from danger today. Bless those who work to

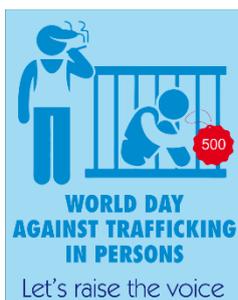
bring them relief; inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts; and guide the nations of the world towards that day when all will rejoice in your Kingdom of justice and of peace.

July 11, World Population Day: This day aims to increase people’s awareness of various population issues such as the importance of family planning, gender equality, poverty, maternal health, and human rights.



Prayer: We pray for our local community: that through God’s grace we may be good neighbours to each other and to the whole of creation, restoring and caring for all that God has made.

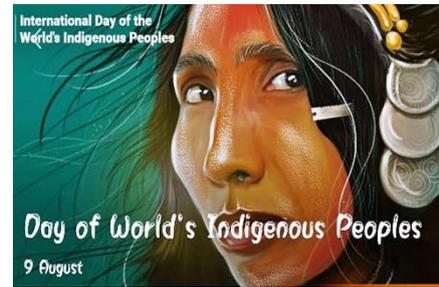
July 30, World Day against Trafficking in Persons: is established to raise awareness of the plight of human trafficking victims, and promote and protect their rights. Let us take this opportunity to give hope to trafficking victims, pledge to do our part and help end this terrible crime.



Prayer: Oh God, we didn't see them, but you did. The hundreds and thousands of human beings trafficked each year to join the millions who are trapped in modern-day slavery. You see them all, God of the poor.

You hear their cry and you answer by opening our eyes, and breaking our hearts and loosening our tongues to insist: No more!

August 9, International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples: is established to raise awareness and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population. This event also recognizes the achievements and contributions that indigenous people make to improve world issues such as environmental protection.



Prayer: Jesus, through You all creation is related. You showed us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.

August 22, International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief:



When reading recent headlines, one can't ignore the fact that religious persecution is increasing. One in three people suffers from religious persecution. Of all the religions, Christians are the most persecuted. Christians face persecution in 143 countries. Worldwide, Muslims and Jews also face persecution. Muslims confront persecution in 140 countries, while Jews face persecution in 87 countries.

Prayer: Have mercy, O God, upon people persecuted for speaking your Name in word or deed. Grant courage and strength to all who dare to live their convictions out loud. Amen.

Prayer in times of the Corona Virus

PRAY FOR THE CONTAINMENT OF THE VIRUS

Using water and soap, thoroughly wash your hands. Ask God to slow and halt the spread of the Coronavirus. Take a moment to pray for God's particular intervention in the nations most affected.



PRAY FOR THE ILL AND ISOLATED

Using a pen and a tissue, write the names of the people you know who are self isolating or who have contracted the virus. Ask God to make His presence felt in solitude and to protect, strengthen and heal them.

PRAY FOR PROTECTION OF THE VULNERABLE

Take a pen and a packet of plasters / band aids. Write on the plasters the names of the people you know who are elderly or have an under-lying condition that may make them susceptible to the Coronavirus. Ask God to protect them from infection.

PRAY FOR LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEADERS

Place your hands on your head and ask God to give wisdom to national and local political leaders as they make decisions to protect people. Cup your hand over your ear and ask God to bring excellent advisers to guide them. Open your hands in front of you and ask God to give them the ability to communicate clearly to the public.

PRAY FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Rub sanitiser into your hands as you ask God to protect the health professionals (doctors, nurses, ambulance crews and more) caring for those affected by the virus. Ask God to give them peace, as well as wisdom, to anoint them for their jobs and to protect them from infection.

PRAY FOR THOSE AFFECTED IN OTHER WAYS BY THE PANDEMIC

There are many people who will be indirectly affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Ask God to comfort those grieving the loss of loved ones, to provide for those in financial difficulty because they are unable to work, and for business leaders as they face such unprecedented disruption to life.

Pray the blessing of Numbers 6:24-26 over each group:

The Lord bless you and keep you;

the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Amen.

