



# FDNSC united together for JPIC

FDNSC Generalate, Rome

JPIC Bulletin, No 19, January 2021

**Dear Sisters and Friends,**



In the last JPIC Bulletin (September 2020) we reported on the initiative of the Chevalier Institute in Australia to promote integral ecology. Since then, two interesting events have taken place. The first was a webinar entitled “Instruments for Sowing Hope for the Planet”. At the initiative of Pope Francis, the initial plans for a special fifth anniversary year of *Laudato Si* developed into a much bigger endeavour. That is a commitment to complete that transition to integral ecology by 2030, involving the whole of the Catholic Church. Therefore, the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development developed a Roll-out plan that was presented in this Webinar.

The second event was a Webinar of our Chevalier Institute in Australia. The title was “Care for our Common Home: a conversation about how we can all participate in shaping the future of the planet.”

In this Bulletin, you can read more about these two events because: “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” (*Laudato Si* no 14). As usual, you will find the Events on the World Event Calendar, which help us to be more aware of JPIC issues and to pray for them. We conclude this issue with a prayer.

## **The Roll-Out Plan of the Dicastery for the Promotion of Human Development**

Scientists warn us that unless by 2030, we reverse the current trends of carbon emissions, the dramatic climate change we are already experiencing, will become irreversible. There is an urgent need to speed up the transformation envisaged in the Encyclical *Laudato Si*. As Pope Francis stated, interdependence obliges us to think of one world with a common plan (LS 164).



Religious institutes have already started many initiatives to promote integral ecology, but there is a need to move on together forming a critical mass for systemic change. So, the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development has been asked to come up with

a plan. They have involved many partners, such as UISG, USG and the Global Catholic Climate Movement. During the **webinar “Instruments for Sowing Hope for the Planet”** **Brother Alberto Parise, mccj** presented the **Laudato Si Roll-Out Plan**. He spoke about how communities and congregations could actively participate in the effort that the whole Catholic Church is making towards an integral ecology by the year 2030.

The Dicastery has drawn up an overall framework of the initiative, that they will officially launch on May 24, 2021, at the end of the special anniversary year. Participating communities and institutes commit themselves to a seven-year journey to complete their transition to integral ecology. The Dicastery hopes that new communities will join the initiative every year. That would lead to the growth of a Laudato Si inspired network of communities to quickly reach a critical mass that is necessary for systematic change. Scientists tell us that when between 21 and 25 per cent of the population embraces change, then the social system will change.

The horizon of that systemic change is defined by the **seven Laudato Si goals**:

- 1) response to the cry of the earth;
- 2) response to the cry of the poor;
- 3) ecological economics;
- 4) adoption of a simple lifestyle;
- 5) ecological education;
- 6) ecological spirituality
- 7) community engagement and participatory action.



The Dicastery offers a process that suggests a sense of direction and essential reference points, but also gives participants the freedom to define their own journey in detail according to their own situation, charism and context. Therefore, the support system of the Dicastery is based on three elements:

**1) a framework** of reference; the Laudato Si Action Platform.

**2) a process** comprised of the following elements:

- a) public commitment; communities commit themselves to complete the transition to Integral Ecology within seven years through a public statement. They have to be accountable to the public by yearly reports; they could celebrate their achievements in prayer and liturgy;
- b) specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound goals defined by the community. The commitment to integral ecology should not be another added commitment on top of the ordinary community project, rather the ordinary community project could take into consideration yearly targets for making the transition.
- c) a journey together; this aspect is crucial for having a social impact and contributing to systemic change. Communities could, for example, participate in campaigns such as divesting from fossil fuels or banning plastic packaging. Other ways to journey together could be sharing and exchanging experiences among religious communities

and linking up with the Laudato Si Action Website prepared by the Global Catholic Climate Movement.

**3) some practical tools** to implement the Laudato Si Goals. These tools enable communities to respond at the same time to three or four Laudato Si Goals, based on the see-judge-act method.

Pope Francis keeps telling us that time is running out to fix the economy, protect the earth and help the poor. We must act urgently and “Each one of us can play a valuable role, if we all set out today. Not tomorrow. Today!”

### Did you know.....

- that **“Sowing hope for the planet”** sounds very similar to the theme of our General Conference (2017) “Ametur...sowing seeds of life and hope in our broken world” and the theme of the coming Chapter “Together, being missionaries of hope in a new world emerging.”
- that **one of our Provinces** in preparation for our General Chapter asked for a common mission focus for the whole congregation.
- that during the Webinar **Sr. Anne Corry (Society of the Sacred Heart)** as their focus mentioned: “to be one body which loves, practices and gives witness to justice, peace and integrity of creation at all levels of our life and mission.”
- that participation in the program of the Dicastery could probably help us to find our common focus? During the same webinar, **Father Vincent Anes CMF** shared what they do with the whole Claretian Family. Would participation be a possibility for us as Chevalier Family too?
- that **Alison McKenzie** facilitated the **Webinar of the Chevalier Institute** in which they wanted to turn to the wisdom of Laudato Si and to delve into some new ways of living and working together. Therefore, a panel, students of msc colleges and young adults from msc parishes, reflected together.

**Care for our Common Home**  
A conversation about how we can participate in shaping the future of the planet

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020  
5.30pm-7pm AEST

The Chevalier Institute invites you to a webinar conversation – “How does the Pope’s letter, *Laudato Si*, deepen and add to our understanding of ecological issues and our capacity to live our spirituality more faithfully?”. The webinar will include input from six key speakers as well as students from our MSC colleges and parishes.

Presenters:

 Jacqui Remond Laudato Si Consultant	 Sr Mary Drum Provincial, MSC Sisters	 Fr Claude Mastrowik MSC Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation	 Fr Krish Mathavan MSC Laudato Si Animator	 Mark McGinnity Director, MSC Education	 Aidan Johnson Coordination, Heartworks
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MSC - Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

What was the wisdom that the participants drew from Laudato Si?

- **Jacqui Remond**, from the Global Catholic Climate Movement and former student of our OLSH College in Bentleigh, said that even though Laudato Si was launched 5 years ago, in many ways we are yet to live out a full implementation of the teachings found in this document.
- **Will and Ashanti**, students from Chevalier College said that we will not be able to do so if we only feel it as a duty and we don't act out of love and compassion for Mother Earth and God. Only love will change our mindsets and help us to do what is right because it comes from the heart. Then it doesn't feel like a sacrifice anymore.

We can learn stewardship from older generations who set the example for younger generations. This will lead to a permanent change in cultures in schools and communities. When we talk about stewardship, we talk about care. If we truly are trying to live in harmony with God's love for the earth and nature, how can we ignore people in crisis, how can we leave these people behind? It becomes a social justice issue.



- **Father Claude Mostowik** said that Spirituality of the Heart is a call to love compassionately. As people of the heart, we want to be part of what Pope Francis calls the revolution of tenderness that can overcome the indifference in our world today. Everything in our world is connected. Care of the environment needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to the problems of society. Pope Francis appeals to us and says to let our time be remembered for our reverence for life, the firm resolution to achieve sustainability and the quickening of our struggle for justice and peace and the joyful celebration of life.

- **Mia Bennets**, a student from Downlands College, said that we are the people who can and should respond to the appeal and that we need to listen more. Caring for the poor and the earth goes side by side as Pope Francis said. The wealthy could learn from the poor, things like using only the resources you need, rather than as much as you want, living simply and being caretakers rather than consumers. A deeper sense of faith can inspire compassion and loving awareness and motivation to care for our world.



- **Father Krish Mathavan** said that Laudato Si is not merely a call to do something green. It presents to us a new lens or worldview, a new mindset, a new way of being and not just doing. It invites us to take a deeper spiritual journey with the earth and with each other, seeking to listen and to connect from the heart. It calls us to unite our emotions and desires with the compassionate Heart of Jesus, the source of life and love, that holds us and all of creation. When we can do that, we can get better and open our hearts to those around us and the whole of creation. Then we can move from

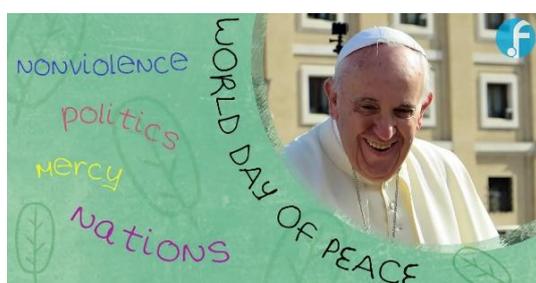


world by loving our neighbours in other countries, by providing them a world in which they can live. The first mission given to Adam was to look after the earth. We have a deep calling, and we need to follow through with it.

At the end of the Webinar, **Jacqui Remond**, who is working at the Vatican and with the Ecology Task Force, invited the MSC Schools to be part of the first group of schools to take up a commitment for the seven-year action plans. It feels to her like they are ready for it. I, as a coordinator for JPIC, was wondering whether there are other groups within our Chevalier Family who dare to take up this challenge!!!

## Events on the JPIC Calendar

**January 1, World Day of Peace:** a feast day of the Roman Catholic Church dedicated to



universal peace, held on January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Pope Paul VI established it in 1967, being inspired by the encyclical *Pacem in Terris* of Pope John XXIII and with reference to his own encyclical *Populorum Progressio*. The day was first observed in 1968. The theme last year was: "Peace as a Journey of Hope: Dialogue, Reconciliation and Ecological Conversion" While

writing this Bulletin, the theme for this year was not yet revealed, but you will be able to find it on: <http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace.html>

**Prayer:** We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe in a world emancipated from violence, a new world where fear shall no longer lead people to commit neither injustice nor selfishness that brings suffering to others. Help us to devote our whole life to the task of making peace.

**January 24, International Day of Education:** By proclaiming this International Day, UN member states recognized the importance of working to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels – so that all people may have access to lifelong learning opportunities that help them to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to access opportunities to participate fully in society and contribute to sustainable development.



**Prayer:** Father, thank you for the ability to learn and the opportunities that come with an education. For the 58 million primary-school-age children who have dropped out of school, help us to take away barriers, open doors, and provide solutions so that all children can sit in class and have the chance of a brighter future.

**February 11, World Day of the Sick:** is a feast day of the Roman Catholic Church, celebrated every year on the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes as "a special time of prayer and sharing, of offering one's suffering." Pope John Paul II initiated the day in 1992 to encourage people to pray for those who suffer from illness and for their caregivers. The Pope himself had been diagnosed with Parkinson's a year before, in



1991, and it is considered that his own illness was the impetus for his designation of that day.

Pope Benedict XVI also declared his decision to resign from his post as the Pope on this day in 2013. He cited his failing health as the reason behind his decision. While writing this Bulletin, the Pope's message for this day was not yet published, but you will be able to find it on <http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick.index.html>

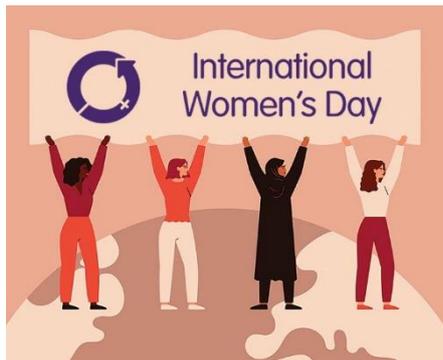
**Prayer:** Almighty and eternal God, you are the Hope that never abandons us, and the Love that gives itself on the Cross. Make Your face shine on all sick people, the suffering and the dying. Help us to be good Samaritans who will serve and heal sick, suffering and dying people, and who help the weakest, selflessly.

**February 20, World Day of Social Justice:** This day was observed for the first time on 20 February 2009. It aims to contribute to the efforts of the international community in poverty eradication, promotion of full employment and decent work, gender equity and justice for all.

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we pray for the poorest and most vulnerable. Let us not just speak of justice, but let us act in just ways. May the oppressed and needy feel justice and equality and experience a world without hunger and poverty.



**March 8, International Women's Day:** offers an opportunity to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities. The campaign theme for this year is: "#ChooseToChallenge".

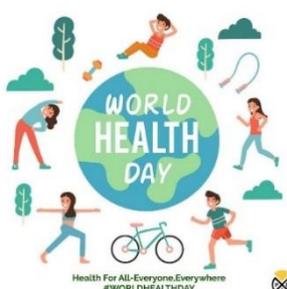


A challenged world is an alert world. Individually, we're all responsible for our own thoughts and actions - every day. We can choose to challenge and call out gender stereotypes and bias. Collectively, we can create an inclusive world. From challenge comes change. Choose to challenge!

**Prayer:** God our Creator, you have built up your Church through the love and devotion of women everywhere: inspire us to follow their great example; that we with them may share in the vision of your glory; through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. Amen

**March 22, World Water Day:** is a day to celebrate the gift of water. It's a day to make a difference for everybody who suffers from water-related issues and to prepare for the way we will manage water in the future.

**Prayer:** We praise and thank You, Lord, for the gift of living water. Guide us to use it wisely, learn from its humility, consume it sparingly, and protect its purity, so that we may truly enjoy water. Amen.



**April 7, World Health Day:** This day's message is simple: people need access to healthcare without the prospect of financial hardship, regardless of where they live; they could be in Africa, Asia, South America or the United States. What matters to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the group behind it, is that there's Health for All.

**Prayer:** “Jesus bestowed upon the Church his healing power. “The Church’s mission is to bring to the sick the Lord’s own gaze, full of tenderness and compassion,” the Pope said. Help us, Lord, to carry out this mission with renewed enthusiasm in our communities, in our parishes, in our institutions and our missions abroad.

**April 22, International Mother Earth Day**, also known simply as Earth Day, recognises that the Earth and its ecosystems provide its inhabitants with life and sustenance. It also aims to raise awareness that humans have a collective responsibility to promote harmony with nature and to balance the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations.

‘Mother Earth’ is an ancient concept common to many languages and cultures, acknowledging our connection to the planet which sustains and nurtures us.

**Prayer:** Lord, help us to maintain a reverent attitude towards nature, threatened from all sides today, in such a way that we may restore it completely to the condition of brother/sister and its role of usefulness to all humankind for the glory of God the Creator.



### **Prayer for Ecological Conversion**

God of the sun and the moon, of the mountains, deserts and plains,  
God of the mighty oceans, of rivers, lakes and streams,  
God of all creatures that live in the seas and fly in the air,  
of every living thing that grows and moves on this sacred Earth,  
help us to love and respect it,  
to repair what we have damaged,  
to care for what You have made good and holy.  
Give us the wisdom and the passion to change our minds and hearts and our ways.  
Let us be mustard seeds in our world,  
bringing about ecological conversion which grows and spreads to every corner of the earth,  
for our sake now and for every generation which is to come.  
We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

(Adapted from Catholic Earth care Launch 2002)