

Call to Justice: “JusticeGram” of the Salvatorian Family USA

Season of Creation

Volume 1, Issue 4
Summer 2020

“LAUDATO SI’, mi’ Signore” – “Praise be to you, my Lord.” These words open Pope Francis’ 2015 encyclical on ecology and care for God’s creation. Quoting St. Francis of Assisi’s canticle, they remind us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life.

In 2020, Pope Francis invited all Catholics and people of good will to celebrate the encyclical’s fifth anniversary by taking action to protect families and future generations by caring for our common home.

It’s not just the Catholic Church that’s focusing on care for God’s creation. Since the late 1980s, various Christian denominations have come together to celebrate the Season of Creation. This celebration brings more than 2.2 million Christians together to renew our relationship with our Creator and with all creation, especially the poor, through prayer and action for our common home.

This issue of our Salvatorian “JusticeGram” joins us with others around the world in honoring the Earth and all of God’s creation during the Season of Creation: September 1 (Day of Prayer for Creation) to October 4 (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi).



Tuesday, Sept 1, 2020 5:00pm (PT) / 7:00pm (CT)/ 8:00pm (ET) :
Jordan Ministry Team offers a 90 minute online workshop celebrating the Day of Prayer for the Integrity of Creation, **Brother Silas Henderson, SDS**, DMin, will explore the fundamental themes of Laudato Si’. He will help us understand how the values of this document intersect with our lives and ministries. The session is open to all. Salvatorians can attend for free.
<https://jordanministryteam.org/upcoming-events/laudato-si>

Saturdays, Sept. 12, 19, 26 5:00pm (PT) / 7:00pm (CT)/ 8:00pm (ET) Reflection/ Discussion Series: **Sister Patrice Colletti, SDS** will help us journey more deeply through

Workshops (cont.)

the *Laudato Si* encyclical in a series of 90 minute reflections/discussions. Be prepared to actively reflect and share your questions and insights. You'll want to order a copy of *Laudato Si* (Google "buy laudato si" and you'll see many options). Or read it online or download it for free (<https://www.usccb.org/offices/general-secretariat/laudato-si-care-our-common-home>) We will be using the USCCB Discussion Guide, also available at the same link.

Register at: <https://forms.gle/UF44eEcWqnBUN7Fd7>

Take Action: Explore the Links

Participate in a social media campaign by tweeting or posting to Facebook using one of the free resources located at <https://seasonofcreation.org/resources/#promotionalResources>

Include a [Season of Creation prayer](#) in your morning, evening, or parish-based prayer. <https://tinyurl.com/PrayerCommonHome>

Read a section of the encyclical. [This page](#) organizes it by themes or topics. <https://tinyurl.com/LaudatoSiTopics>

Ask your parish to use this bulletin insert from USCCB. *Laudato Si'*: Caring for Our Common Home Bulletin Insert | en Español <https://tinyurl.com/SoCParishInsert>

[Here's a prayer](#) you can use in your personal or communal prayer.

Laudato Si' Online Lecture Series is available for more in depth learning. <https://tinyurl.com/LecturesCCM>



Needed: An Urgent Response

• **A Moral and Spiritual Challenge.** The ecological crisis is a summons to profound interior conversion—to renew our relationships with

God, one another, and the created world.

- **Care for God's Creation.** God created the world and entrusted it to us as a gift. We are responsible to care for and protect it and all people, who are part of creation.
- **We are All Connected.** We are connected to the rest of the human family, to the created world, and to those who will come after us in future generations.
- **Our Most Vulnerable Neighbors** have contributed least to climate change, yet are disproportionately impacted by it.
- **Technological and economic development** must serve human beings and enhance human dignity, instead of creating an economy of exclusion, so that all have access to what they need.
- **Supporting Life, Protecting Creation.** Concern for nature is incompatible with failure to protect vulnerable human beings, such as unborn children, people with disabilities, immigrants, or victims of human trafficking.
- **A Time to Act.** We must make important changes as individuals, families, and communities, and as civil and political leaders.
- **Hope and Joy.** "Injustice is not invincible" (no. 74) and we act knowing that we seek to live out God's vision of renewed relationships with God, ourselves, one another, and creation.

Salvatorian Consciousness Examen: Caring for Our Common Home

(Based on *Salvatorian Consciousness Examen*,
Sisters of the Divine Savior)

Laudato Si calls us to an ongoing
"ecological conversion" that changes how
we are, as well as how we act.

Jesus Christ, Savior of the World, I pray for the grace of insight as I ponder this day. Help me to see as you see. Help me to see you in Creation. Help me to recognize you in those who are our most vulnerable neighbors. Help me to be open to your call to transformation.

Living your call of ongoing conversion, open my eyes to see how your goodness and kindness were present in the persons and events of this day.

- Name how you experienced the goodness and kindness of Jesus today.
- How were you that goodness and kindness?
- How were you most "Salvatorian" as you related to Creation? As you related to our most vulnerable neighbors
- Praise and thank God for these moments.

Now take time to be with anything that is a tension or a dis-ease in you. When did you break your relationship to Creation? When were you unaware of it? How well did you live your relationship with the poor and vulnerable? When were they invisible to you?

- Briefly describe these happenings and ask God for the grace of insight to understand what really took place.
- In what way were you not yet fully Salvatorian?
- What response is God calling you to make from this day's events?
- What grace do you need right now to continue to respond to God faithfully?

Bring this prayer to a close by reflecting how our Salvatorian spirituality intersects with Pope Francis's call to care for our common home. Consider these:

- ◇ Divine Providence
- ◇ Universality
- ◇ Savior of the World
- ◇ Goodness and Kindness of Jesus
- ◇ Preferential option for the poor
- ◇ Cross and Resurrection
- ◇ Commitment to Poverty, Chastity and Obedience



In response to our JLG call to focus on Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC), we produce this quarterly newsletter for members of our SDS Family. We invite our members to **talk, pray, and act** on the issues we highlight. Use the links to learn more. DO something.

@ Prayer or @ UR Parish

Lord grant us the wisdom and drive to do one action each day to honor your creation, Mother Earth.

How can I help save Mother Earth?

Jackie White, SDS

Laudato Si, describes our role in the destruction of so much of Creation's beauty and resources. Our actions can help to restore Mother Earth, prevent further destruction or avoid adding to the ongoing devastation of God's creation. Much of what is destructive to Mother Earth is also harmful to us.

So, how I can make some changes in my life to be a responsible citizen of Mother Earth? Here are a few ideas to consider whether you are living in a home, apartment, senior residence; in the city, country or suburbs. If each of us chose to do one or two of these actions, we would make a difference.

- ♦ Save water. Take shorter showers; turn off the water while brushing your teeth. I live on the desert, so this is real for us.
- ♦ Use both sides of the paper. Use scrap paper to take notes.
- ♦ Buy and eat local food to reduce transportation by truck or plane.

- ♦ Use fewer napkins. Using one less napkin a day saves a billion pounds of space in landfills and keeps millions of trees busy cleaning our carbon dioxide and giving us oxygen.
- ♦ Re-wear your clothes to reduce the amount of laundry and thus reduce water usage.
- ♦ Use energy efficient lightbulbs. Reduce the amount of power needed
- ♦ Use a clothesline instead of a dryer.
- ♦ Eat less meat. Raising beef takes tremendous amounts of water.
- ♦ Turn off lights when you are not in the room. My father was ahead of the curve as he demanded this of us. I am always turning off lights!
- ♦ Try to reduce your junk mail by contacting the organization.
- ♦ Use our voting power and advocacy with legislators to create systemic change.

In *Universal Christ*, Richard Rohr (2019) states: "Creation exists first of all for its own good sake; second to show forth God's goodness, diversity, and beneficence; and then for human's appropriate use."

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