

Our Common Home

Dominican Sisters Conference ~ Engaging Laudato Si'



The Dominican Sisters Conference is happy to share this monthly study series that was prepared by the Earth Charter Implementation Committee (ECIC) of the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael. We are grateful for the generosity of the ECIC in sharing the fruits of their study with all of us! We will also have these studies available on the DSC and *Paris 2015 and Counting* websites.

Laudato Si' – Pope Francis Introduction

- “I wish to address every person living on this planet . . . to enter into dialogue with all people about our common home.
- There is an urgent need for a radical change in the conduct of humanity.
- We are called to acknowledge “our contribution, smaller or greater, to the disfigurement and destruction of creation.”
- We are asked “to replace consumption with sacrifice, greed with generosity, wastefulness with a spirit of sharing ...”

St. Francis “shows us how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society and interior peace.”

- “The Book of Creation: “rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise.”
- “I urgently appeal for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. . . . [Where] all of us can

Our Reality

This study of “Our Common Home” continues our study of the conversations that began even before we heard the call, “What is Earth asking of the Dominican Order,” at the 2012 DSC Convocation. It encompasses

- Respect and care for the Community of Life
- Ecological integrity
- Social and economic justice
- A world-wide culture of tolerance, non-violence and peace

This requires a change of mind and heart. It requires a new sense of global interdependence and universal responsibility.

Points to Ponder/Our Challenge

Are we ready to engage on behalf of “Our Common Home?” For Pope Francis himself is leading the way.

Let us each ask ourselves as we ponder the introduction and subsequent chapters of the encyclical:

cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation”

- I will point to the intimate relationship between:
 - The poor and the fragility of the planet,
 - The conviction that everything in the world is connected
 - □The critique of the new paradigms and forms of power derived from technology
 - The call to seek other ways of understanding the economy and progress
 - The value proper to each creature
 - The human meaning of ecology
 - The need for forthright and honest debate
 - The serious responsibility of international and local policy
 - The throwaway culture and the proposal of a new lifestyle

- With what do I resonate?
- What disturbs me?
- What additional study and information do I need?
- □Am I willing to commit myself to Francis’ universal call by prayer, deeper study and reflection and personal change?
- Am I willing to engage in communal conversation on the implications of the encyclical?

August 16, 2016

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Laudato Si’ - Introduction