

# WHAT IS LAUDATO SI'?

***“What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?”***

**~ Pope Francis in Laudato Si' #160**

Laudato Si' is a papal encyclical, an authoritative circular letter promulgated by the Pope. Encyclicals are ordinarily addressed to the whole Church or, at times, more broadly to *all people of good will*. Pope Francis' encyclical letter promulgated in 2015 was addressed to “every person living on this planet”. The encyclical takes its name from the opening of the Canticum of the Creatures by St. Francis of Assisi, *Laudato Si' or Praise be*, to remind us that Earth, our common home “is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.”

Laudato Si' centers around the concept of integral ecology to describe the relationships of the person: with God, with oneself, with other human beings and with Earth. Each of these relationships is interdependent with the others. Put simply, everything is connected. Laudato Si' calls for an integral ecology that sees the interconnectedness of environmental, economic, political, social, cultural, and ethical issues.

Laudato Si' is an important addition to the body of modern Catholic Social Teaching (CST) which has developed over the last 130 years. CST is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. CST has been articulated through a tradition of documents, beginning with the encyclical *Rerum Novarum* (On the Condition of Labor) written by Pope Leo XIII in 1891.



## HOW IS THE PASSIONIST FAMILY RESPONDING TO LAUDATO SI'?

PASSION OF EARTH, WISDOM OF THE CROSS has been developed specifically for the worldwide Passionist family to engage Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, and to renew our charism while doing so. It is composed of six sessions, each one focusing on a chapter of *Laudato Si'* in light of our charism.

Brochures are being emailed to the congregation as they are published. So far, the introductory brochure as well as brochures for sessions 1 through 3 have been released. They are translated into four languages, including Spanish and English. You can also access the brochures at <https://www.passiochristi.org/laudato-si/>.



As the brochures are released, we ask you to convene those in your local community or ministry site to read, pray over, and discuss each brochure of PASSION OF EARTH, WISDOM OF THE CROSS. Invite vowed members, staff, employees, Board members, volunteers, and others who play key roles in your community to participate. Celebrate where you are already in motion, and brainstorm actions you can take for each of the Action Platform goals. Ideas for actions can be found in the brochures and at the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform site operated by the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development: <https://laudatosi-actionplatform.org/laudato-si-goals/>.

For more information and/or hard copies of the brochures, please contact Patty Gillis, *Laudato Si'* Animator for Holy Cross Province at 313.399.8320 or [pjgillis48@gmail.com](mailto:pjgillis48@gmail.com).