We Begin with Prayer

Religious Orders in the United States and Friends
October 4, 2021 | Virtual
Introduction

To help us prayerfully prepare for the path ahead, we invite you to join us in 40 days of prayer.

You are warmly invited to join the universal Catholic family around the world in joyfully praying for the well-being of all those on the Laudato Si’ journey, every day for the 40 days between October 14, the Feast of St. Francis, and November 14.

November 14 is the World Day of Prayer for the Poor and the launch of new planning materials on the Laudato Si' Action Platform.
Gathering Prayer

Lord, Maker of our human family
you created all human beings equal in dignity:
pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit
and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter,
dialogue, justice and peace.

Move us to create healthier societies
and a more dignified world,
a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.

May our hearts be open
to all the peoples and nations of the earth.

May we recognize the goodness and the beauty
that you have sown in each of us,
and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects,
and shared dreams. Amen

- Pope Francis. *Fratelli Tutti*, Assisi, 3 October 2020
Dear brothers and sisters,

The current pandemic has now brought to light in an even stronger way the cry of nature and that of the poor who suffer the consequences the most, highlighting that everything is interconnected and interdependent and that our health is not separate from the health of the environment in which we live.

Therefore, we need a new ecological approach that can transform our way of inhabiting the world, our lifestyles, our relationship with the Earth’s resources and, in general, our way of looking at humanity and of living life.

Continued...
We have a great responsibility, especially with regard to future generations. What world do we want to leave to our children and our young people? Our selfishness, our indifference and our irresponsible ways are threatening the future of our children! I therefore renew my appeal: let us take care of our mother Earth; let us overcome the temptation of selfishness that makes us predators of resources; let us cultivate respect for the gifts of the Earth and of creation; let us inaugurate a lifestyle and a society that is finally eco-sustainable: we have the opportunity to prepare a better tomorrow for all. From God’s hands we have received a garden, we cannot leave a desert to our children.

Continued...
Reading/Meditation

There is hope. We can all collaborate, each one with his own culture and experience, each one with her own initiatives and capacities, so that our mother Earth may be restored to her original beauty and creation may once again shine according to God’s plan.

God bless each one of you, and bless our mission to rebuild our common home. Thank you.
Response – Canticle of the Creatures

Most High, all powerful, good Lord, Yours are the praises, the glory, the honor, and all blessings. To You alone, Most High, do they belong, and no one is worthy to mention Your name.

Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures, especially through my lord Brother Sun, who brings the day; and you give light through him. And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendor! Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind, and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather through which You give sustenance to Your creatures.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water, which is very useful and humble and precious and chaste. Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom you light the night and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth, who sustains us and governs us and who produces varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.

Praised be You, my Lord, through those who give pardon for Your love, and bear infirmity and tribulation. Blessed are those who endure in peace for by You, Most High, they shall be crowned.

Praised be You, my Lord, through our Sister Bodily Death, from whom no living man can escape. Woe to those who die in mortal sin.

Blessed are those whom death will find in Your most holy will, for the second death shall do them no harm.

Praise and bless my Lord, and give Him thanks and serve Him with great humility.
Intercessions

Lord, everything that exists is created with your infinite wisdom and care. Indeed, your works are all good.

We pray for all people of good will to take necessary daily action to protect our common home and pass it to future generations – Lord teach us to care for our common home.

We pray for the leaders of countries that they may dialog and take decisions towards slowing climate change and the devastation of world forests – Lord, teach us to care for our common home.

We pray for those with economic power that they may come to the understanding that the future of this planet depends on their actions – Lord, teach us to care for our common home.

We pray for all the vulnerable and the excluded, the hungry, the migrants who are suffering greatly from the effects of environmental degradation, that they may be welcomed and helped – Lord, teach us to care for our common home.

- The Claretian Missionaries
Call to Action

● Click here to download all of the prayers for the 40 days, and click here to download the prayer for your sector. Please feel free to share these resources with your network as we create a web of loving prayer around the world.

● Please join us in praying daily as we prepare for the launch of new Laudato Si' planning materials on 14 November. We invite you to download the prayer card and to please share these prayers with your network, lifting up a united voice to our God.

● Remind your congregational leader to prepare and share their public commitment
  ○ Form in English and Form in Spanish
  ○ Send the commitment to laudatosiacionplatform@gmail.com

● In a moment of silence, think and write concrete action that your community will take to care for the earth and for our venerable brothers and sisters in our close neighborhood.

● Finally, we're very happy to share that we celebrate the Feast of St. Francis by publishing an early library of resources and list of events, all generously offered by the network of partner organizations that are co-creators of the Laudato Si' Action Platform. They warmly invite you to use their resources freely starting October 4 on the Laudato Si’ Action Platform website.
Closing Song

Br. Al Mascia, ofm -
https://brotheralmusic.org/track/2295343/deo-gratia
Thank you

Announcements for those of you who are LSAP Promoters for Religious Orders...

● We will be sending copies of letters sent to your major superiors from:
  ○ Cardinal Turkson
  ○ General Secretaries of UISG/USG

● We will also be sending a:
  ○ Copy of the commitment template for Religious Orders
  ○ Copy of today’s prayer
  ○ Link to prayers for these 40 Days of Prayer and Promotion for the LSAP

Thank you to all for taking the time to be with us . . .

● Let us pray for all men and women religious as we continue to
  ○ Discern our participation in the journey to integral ecology
  ○ Make our public commitment
  ○ Prepare for enrollment on the platform on November 14

● Let us all continue to invite others to join us on this amazing 7-year journey