

# CONTACT

QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION, OFM



## JPIC Office present at the General Chapter 2021

*As part of his presentation, the Minister General invited Brother Jaime Campos, Director of the General Office for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, to share on JPIC developments that are integral to the life of the Order.*

1

### ECOLOGY

Brazil - USA- Chile  
Colombia - Caribbean -  
Italy

2

### MIGRATION

Central America -  
Mexico - USA

3

### HUMAN RIGHTS

Myanmar - South Korea  
Japan - Colombia -  
Mexico



**Nagasaki  
project! What is  
it?**



**Laudato Si'  
Week**



**Laudato Si'  
Action Platform**



# Moving forward with Laudato Si' Action Platform

**I**t was an inspiring “Laudato Si' Jubilee Year”, with our very own #LSRevolution as a concrete response to Pope Francis's call to continue bringing the encyclical Laudato Si's message to life. As we move forward, the Pope established a global grassroots movement comprised of people from all walks of life working cooperatively to assist and guide our brothers and sisters around the world toward increased action in caring for creation.

**The Laudato Si' Action Platform** is a program and website that aims to equip Catholic institutions, communities, and families with the resources necessary to implement Laudato Si'. It is initiated by the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and is being built from the ground up in collaboration with a variety of Catholic individuals and organizations, including our own OFMJPIC office, which serves on the Steering Committee and the Religious Sector leadership team.

It is intended to assist anyone who wishes to make a seven-year commitment to ensuring the publication of Laudato Si'. Families, parishes, dioceses, schools, universities, hospitals, and health care institutions, as well as employees, businesses, and farms, as well as groups, organizations, and movements, are all encouraged to participate in the program. Individuals interested in learning more about their current activities and how they can contribute more to Laudato Si's objectives may register until October 4th.

These objectives are intended to address the Earth's cry for assistance and environmental degradation, the poor and vulnerable's cry for assistance, the need for an ecologically sustainable economy, and the desire for simple lives. Additionally, achieving these goals requires the adoption of simple lifestyle habits, the promotion of environmental education, and the reinforcement of community awareness, participation, and action.

As we continue to respond to the call of Laudato Si', we are invited to join the platform and take the lead in our communities. May this opportunity allow us Franciscans to embrace our very own spirituality through this action platform.



**“This platform serves as a guide and a forum for the exchange of ideas, concerns, obstacles, and inspiration, with the understanding that "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts" (LS 141).**

**Br Angelito, OFM**  
JPIC Office - Rome





## The role of the Church in the fight against deforestation

*More than a year ago, Pope Francis presented to the world the Apostolic Exhortation "**Querida Amazona**" the result of the Synod of Bishops addressed to the people of God and to all people of good will. In this document, built with many hands, the Holy Father makes a strong call to save the Amazon.*

The event, which brought together bishops, Catholic, religious, indigenous leaders, and activists from nine South American countries, had a significant impact on the thinking of Saint Francis of Assisi, patron of Ecology and a faithful companion of the Pope, who, in addition to admiring him, chose the same name for his ministry. It is worth mentioning that the Amazon Synod joins a set of actions of the Pontiff that ensure the care of the Common Home.

It is beautiful, lush and green. This is how we get used to seeing forests. However, behind the scenes, a high and accelerating level of deforestation is worrying. What the eyes of the rulers do not see, little by little, has generated innumerable consequences for all of Brazil and the world.

The entire planet has been given to us to inhabit wisely. Nature is a free inheritance that we receive from God and that we must cultivate. She is not a god, but a sign of the expression of goodness and beauty that emanates from the one true God. In addition, by violating nature, she becomes ill or seriously injured. What has been given to us as a blessing becomes a curse.

The destruction of the Amazon has had a great impact on the entire universe. The rain that occurs in the Amazon is important not only for the region. Assists in power generation, food production, and water supply in central, southern, and southeastern Brazil. For the more than 20 million Brazilians living in the Amazon, deforestation has never brought social development. On the contrary, around 85% of the country's slave labor cases occur in deforested areas of the Amazon.



The Church can not remain silent in the face of this devastation of biodiversity and the abusive use of the land. Even today, there are many prophetic and courageous examples of Christians, missionaries, religious and "godparents" of the environment who have played an important role in the history of preserving forests and caring for life. Unfortunately, many are martyrs, such as Fr. Ezequiel Ramin, Sister Dorothy Stang, and Sister Cleusa Coelho. In these "Christian protagonists," we see the prophetic story of those who fought for the rights of communities, indigenous peoples, and many other people who depend on the forest for their livelihood.

According to the General Minister of the Order of Friars Minor, Brother Michael Perry, the cry of the peoples of the Amazon has a direct impact on actions related to ecology. It is necessary to remember that "to promote an integral ecology in daily life in the Amazon, it is also necessary to understand the notion of justice and intergenerational communication, which includes the transmission of ancestral experiences, cosmologies, spiritualities and indigenous theologies. peoples, around the care of the Common Home" (Instrumentum Laboris do Synod, 50).

There are many actions that the Church has taken in the fight against deforestation. Reaffirming its basic commitment to the peoples of the Panamazonia, the Church seeks to be an evangelizing presence, even with the small number of priests, men and women. In addition, the Church demands that governments respect Mother Earth, as defined by Saint Francis of Assisi and indicates the necessary forms of care for the Common Home. Jorge Mario Bergoglio echoes the Franciscan option and the call to an integral ecology that necessitates "a personal, social, and ecological conversion (cf. LS 210)." In addition, we lack public policies and our participation in the protection and conservation of nature. The guarantee of life on the planet requires a healthy relationship with the world and, above all, the integration between love of nature, God and creatures. Saint Francis of Assisi, patron of the environment, pray for us!

**Br. Augusto Luiz Gabriel, OFM**  
Immaculate Conception Franciscan Province  
Brazil





## Holy Name Province Begins Divestment from Fossil Fuels as Way to Live Into Laudato Si'

**T**hough the pandemic has slowed down many of the efforts of the Laudato Si' Revolution, the Holy Name Province (New York, NY, USA) is pleased to join with a great many other religious communities, secular groups, educational institutions, and governments in divesting from fossil fuels.

The HNP Provincial Council approved the proposal from the Finance Directorate to add a social screen to the investment portfolio that prohibits the investment in companies that produce or profit directly from fossil fuels. The Province's investment screens currently restrict investment in companies "ranked as the worst performers for biodiversity and land use, toxic emissions and waste, energy and climate change, water stress, operational waste and supply chain management." This new divestment effort adds clarity to these social screens.

The impetus for the Province's divestment decision arose from a reflection on Pope Francis's encyclical Laudato Si', when he encourages all to, "promote responsible investments in social and environmental sectors, for example by evaluating progressive divestment from the fossil-fuel sector." The Province is heartened by the invitation from the Holy Father as well as humbled to add its efforts to the numerous other communities who were prophetic in their early adoption of this strategy directed to social transformation.

In addition to divesting from fossil-fuels, the approved proposal recommends that in the next several months, the Province review investment opportunities directed towards positive investments in the energy sector; for renewable energy and other ways to address climate change. While divestment is a good step in the journey toward living more sustainably, the Provincial Administration also recognized that it is not enough. More needs to be done which is why they are excited to have the Province fully participate in the seven-year Laudato Si' Action Platform project. Promoted by the Vatican's Dicastery for Integral Human Development, the project is a great next step that builds upon the Order's previous participation in the Laudato Si' Revolution campaign.

Moving from the Laudato Si' Revolution into the forthcoming action platform is a concrete way to share the message of the Gospel to live in communion with creation and all of humanity. Such an opportunity for social transformation should not be missed.

**Russ Testa, JPIC Animator**  
Holy Name Province  
USA



## Nagasaki project! What is it?

*Nagasaki Project is an International Franciscan Community of Peace, which basic concept is to spread and promote lasting peace in the city of Nagasaki and the world.*

It was first thought by former Minister General José Rodríguez Carballo, OFM when he visited Nagasaki during the East Asian Conference meeting in Japan in 2010 September. His short stay and experience of the place bore an inspiration to dream of an International Community of Friars in Nagasaki that would be a living statement of peace and reconciliation. He further suggested to the Japanese Franciscan Province to host the proposed International Community for such purpose.

Nagasaki was chosen for the new mission of the Order because it was here in 1945 that the atomic bomb was dropped, wherein hundreds of thousands of people including innocent children perished. The bombing brought devastation, deep sorrow, and hatred.

In addition, Nagasaki was a place of heavy persecution and martyrdom in the early centuries (16th -19th century) where Christians sealed their fidelity to Christ sacrificing their lives, such as the Twenty-six Martyrs of Japan (1597), including early Franciscan missionaries, St. Peter Baptist and companions, and all others who followed them.

The Franciscan Province of the Holy Martyrs of Japan after years of thorough discernment finally adhered to host the proposed International community. And to begin with this new international community, it was suggested to ask the collaboration of the OFM East Asian Conference. Later in 2018 two brothers, Bro. Francis Furusato of Japanese Province and Bro. Antonio Kim of Korean Province, who were both living in Japan signified, and were officially assigned to the new mission, the Nagasaki Project.

In 2020 another two brothers joined the Nagasaki Project: Bro. Berardo Yang of China Custody and Bro. Alberto Marfil of the Philippine Province. The brothers are presently inserted with the regular community of Nagasaki where the other three brothers are administering the parish and kindergarten school.



The ordinary life in the fraternity of the brothers is the basis and key for the Project. To live as a contemplative fraternity in evangelizing mission. They support the campaign for the abolition of nuclear weapons through the presence of their Franciscan community in Nagasaki. The brothers collaborated with the EAC-JPIC office on their Peace activities, and with other agencies that have the same advocacy.

As of now, the brothers are in the initial stage of organizing themselves and their activities. They use Japanese and English as their common language. The latter brothers, even after months of formal studies of Nihongo (Japanese language) at the Foreign Language School in Tokyo, are still taking their private Nihongo lessons with a Japanese brother in Nagasaki to further their language skills. They come together three times a week to read, reflect, and share the writings of St. Francis, a venue to build themselves into a community of peace. The brothers will later study in common the history of the hidden Christians and their discovery in Japan, the approach to the mission of the early Franciscans in Japan-success and failure, and the Second World War atomic bomb experiences of the surviving victims.

**The following are some possible projects of the community:**

a. To share with other people, lay, religious and priests the life, writings, and prayers of St. Francis of Assisi, a man and an instrument of peace, through talks, recollections, and encounters.

b. To develop a small institute on Franciscan Spirituality, centered on peace, dialogue, and reconciliation. Learning from St. Peter Baptist and companions on their mission experience, approach, and strategies of the evangelization in Japan in the 16th century.

c. Peace appeal: to share the experiences of the people who suffered the tragic event and the effects of the atomic bombing to their lives; to collaborate and participate in a Franciscan way to anti-nuclear weapons campaign. A Facebook “Nagasaki Franciscan” account was launched to serve as a place to communicate the Nagasaki Project mission.

d. To welcome friars interested in the Nagasaki Project to visit and stay for short periods of three to six months, either for exposure or sabbatical.

e. To accommodate and guide pilgrims, local and foreign, in following the missionary footsteps of St. Peter Baptist and companions from Kyoto, Osaka to Nagasaki; as well as to trace the different sanctuaries and places of the early hidden Christians in Nagasaki. A simple house for pilgrims that can accommodate five to seven persons is within the compound of the parish of St. Peter Baptist where the Nagasaki community lives.

To ensure the success of the Nagasaki Project, we need more friars. The Nagasaki Project community welcomes friars from every region of the world. Whoever is interested in the project to be a member would have to stay for a minimum of six years. **Come and join Nagasaki Project!**



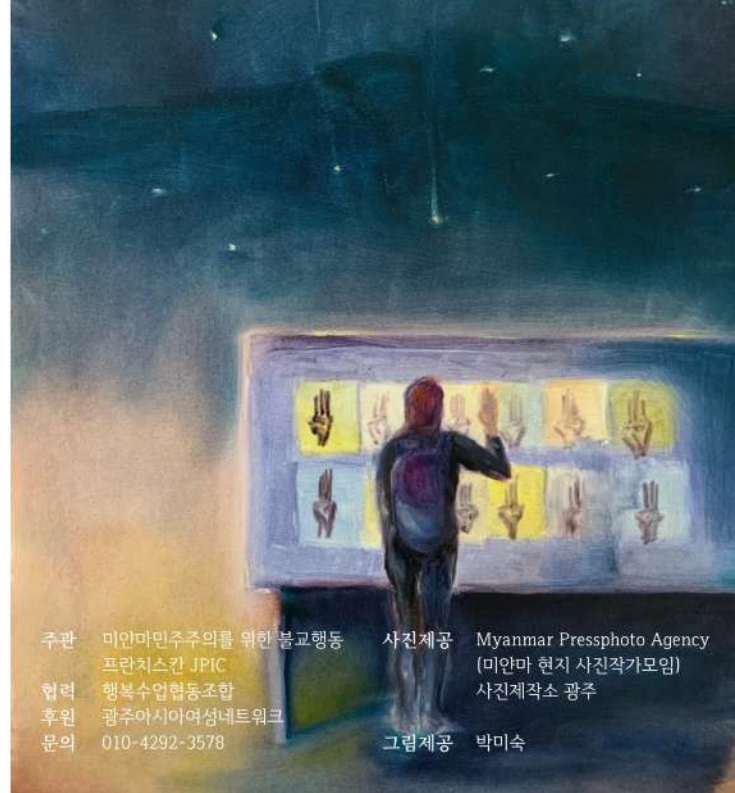
미얀마 사진전 & 그림전

# 그곳에 포다를 우리가 꿈꾸며 산다

2021. 5. 24 - 5. 28 정동 프란치스코 교육회관

2021. 5. 29 - 6. 11 노원구 더 숲 갤러리

\*전시기간 중 미국과 중국 정부에 "미얀마민주주의를 위한 그림엽서 보내기"를 진행합니다.



주관 미얀마민주주의를 위한 불교행동  
프란치스코 JPIC  
협력 행복수업협동조합  
후원 광주아시아여성네트워크  
문의 010-4292-3578

사진제공 Myanmar Pressphoto Agency  
(미얀마 현지 사진작가모임)  
사진제작소 광주  
그림제공 박미숙

## Photo & Painting exhibition for the resolution of the Myanmar crisis

*Korean Buddhist Action for Democracy in Myanmar and JPIC(Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation) commission of Order of Friars Minor have organized the photo & painting exhibition for the resolution of the Myanmar crisis.*

In Korea, we have continued one-man protest from March to April in front of the US and Chinese embassies to resolve the Myanmar crisis. And in April, we've launched a global petition signing campaign to increase the awareness of Myanmar crisis internationally.

I assume this exhibition would offer us the time for prayer that we can reflect ourselves and contemplate which way we should take for peace and life. Korean civil society and religious people will continue to act to resolve the Myanmar crisis.



**Br. Louis Kim, OFM**  
JPIC Animator  
South Korea





# Colombia: Franciscan Family denounces war action and Human Rights violations

Bogotá May 7, 2021

Peace and good

**G**reetings from the Franciscan Family of Colombia. As brothers and sisters inspired by the spirituality of Francis and Clare of Assisi, enlightened by Sacred Scripture, the Social Doctrine of the Church, the Rule of life and the Constitutions of our congregations, we invoke the call to defend the rights of the poor; firmly denounce all kinds of warfare and all arms races that end up affecting the poorest; and the requirement that arises from the Culture of Care and Encounter, to call for the principles of Fraternity and Social Friendship with which to build the kingdom of the God of Peace. From our end, we want to express our solidarity with Colombia in its current situation.

The international community is well aware of the events that occurred in Colombia in the years following the signing of the peace treaties, as well as the position that the current administration of the country has held in the hands of Mr. Iván Duque Márquez.

Workers' Centers, Student Collectives, Social and Popular Organizations, and an infinite population dissatisfied with government policies and against proposed reforms that directly harm the quality of life of the poorest launched an indefinite national strike on April 28. The call was immediate in all cities, with thousands of citizens going out to the streets to demonstrate against the proposed reforms.

We, the Franciscans of Colombia, strongly condemn the state's military action, as well as the various human rights violations to which the population has been subjected, which resulted in protests in the streets, making constitutional use of this right.

We ask you brothers and sisters for your solidarity with our people, making use of the mechanisms that you may have to make this state of affairs visible and demand that the Colombian government, either directly or in international forums, respect human rights.

**Franciscan Family of Colombia**  
Board of Directors



# On the Assassination of Br. Juan Antonio Orozco Alvarado, OFM

*"The martyrs are a treasure and a hope for the Church."*  
**Pope Francis**

Mexico City, Mexico, June 14, 2021

To the Federal Authorities of Mexico;  
 To the Authorities of the States of: Jalisco, Durango, Zacatecas and Nayarit;  
 To the National Human Rights Commission;  
 To the State Human Rights Commissions;  
 To all persons of good faith;

May the Lord give you peace!

The Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commissions of the Franciscan Family of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, with deep sorrow we lament the death of Rev. Fr. Juan Antonio Orozco Alvarado, OFM, belonging to the Franciscan Province of Saints Francis and James in Mexico, JPIC animator and composer of the Hymn of the Revolution *Laudato Si'*. We repudiate the events that occurred on June 12 of this year at 11:00 am, when our brother was on his way to celebrate the Eucharist in the Tepehuana Community of Pajaritos, belonging to the municipality of Mezquital, Durango. Unfortunately, he was killed in crossfire during an armed confrontation between the organized crime cartels that are in dispute over the territory of that area.

The systematic violence that is experienced in Mexico's national territory as a result of the activity of organized crime cannot be ignored, nor can the little or no commitment and training on the part of federal, state and municipal authorities to not only protect citizens, but also to carry out an adequate investigation to





prosecute and punish this type of crime, thereby violating the human right to life, dignity and security of the population in general.

Therefore, we demand that the authorities at all three levels:

1. To the State Attorney General's Office of the corresponding entity, the full integration of the investigation, in which the correct collection of evidence and the exhaustive investigation of the crime scene are ensured so that the assassination of our brother Fr. Juan Antonio Orozco does not go unpunished.

2. To the judicial authorities, the respect for due process, as well as the reparation of the damage to the victims.

3. In the event, that there are more victims, we request that they be treated with dignity and respect for their human rights, in accordance with the provisions of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States, as well as the various international standards of human rights.

4. To the federal, state and municipal authorities, we demand the creation of public policies aimed at guaranteeing the defense of the security of the general population in accordance with international standards, thus guaranteeing public order.

We commit ourselves as Franciscans to continue announcing justice and peace, in an active commitment with other Christian organizations and Churches that defend Human Rights and the victims of this system of institutional violence.

On the other hand, we sympathize with the grief of the family of Rev. FR. Juan Antonio Orozco Alvarado, OFM, and we ask the God of Life to receive this new martyr with open arms and may his death be for us a sign of hope and struggle so that in our country justice may be the banner with which Christians raise their voices to say, "Stop the violence", which contaminates our society and has permeated our families.

May his death be a seed of hope for the people who struggle!

Peace and all good!



## Poor Clare Sisters join Prayer Network for the Care of Creation

*This first-of-its-kind network will pray for and accompany those most affected by climate and ecological injustice.*

In the spirit of Laudato Si' 2021, the platform "Prayer Network for the Care of Creation", a network of communities committed to the healing of our common home, has been created. The JPIC Office, with the support of Pro Monialibus, has invited the Poor Clares, the Capuchin Sisters and the Conceptionist Sisters to be part of this network.

It is with joy that we have seen that several monasteries have been joining together. We'd like to share some of the responses the sisters sent, who once again are a sign of hope and fraternity:

"We have received your message, we have already signed up, count on our unconditional prayerful presence, as it has been up to now. In whatever way we can serve, that is what we are called to do".

"It is with great pleasure that we accept this beautiful invitation to be part of this effort of our beloved Franciscan Order in the awareness of the care and protection of our common home. May the Lord bless and generate many fruits with this initiative to grow from good to better".

What does the prayer network do?

The network unites in prayer for creation and the most vulnerable among us. The prayer network accompanies the most vulnerable species and non-human life affected by climate and ecological injustice and joins with Catholic institutions worldwide to help more people care for creation and begin their ecological conversion.

The official launch of the Prayer Network for the Care of Creation will take place on Thursday, 20 May, during Laudato Si' Week.

We invite you to join the network; you can find more information and register on the website:

**[WWW.LAUDATOSIPRAY.ORG](http://WWW.LAUDATOSIPRAY.ORG)**



# Laudato Si' Action Platform

“Preparing the Future” Together

## The JPIC Office participates in the announcement of the Laudato Si' Action Platform

*We're grateful to share that the Franciscan Office for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) plays a central role in the platform's development as a member of the Steering Committee and Religious Orders working group.*

**T**he Laudato Si' Action Platform is a key Vatican initiative to empower the universal Church to achieve total sustainability in the holistic spirit of integral ecology. As storms grow more intense, seas rise, and deserts grow, the human family is facing ever-higher risks of hunger, sickness, and conflict. Sadly, it is the most vulnerable of our sisters and brothers who face the worst consequences.

For decades, the Church has taught us to urgently respond to this crisis. The JPIC Office has helped lead the response, as we continue our program on Laudato Si' Revolution as an order.

The Laudato Si' Action Platform builds on the foundation established by partner organizations like our JPIC Office. In creating a shared space for action, it offers new momentum to urgently and ambitiously address our ecological crisis. This is a keyway to continue growing and developing as we work to build a better future together.

Today's announcement launches the first phase of the initiative. The first phase is an opportunity for institutions, communities, and families to review initial information and consider their path forward.

The next phase of development will launch on 4 October, which is the Feast of St. Francis and the conclusion of the Season of Creation. The Franciscan Order will contribute to the continued development of this initiative in the run-up to 4 October.





OLMA

Observatório Nacional  
de Justiça Socioambiental  
Luciano Mendes de Almeida



## Brazil: Jesuits and Franciscans united for Laudato Si'

Promoted by the Interfranciscan Service for Justice, Peace and Ecology (SINFRAJUPE) of Brazil and the Luciano Mendes de Almeida Socio-Environmental Justice Observatory (OLMA), the song “Laudato Si” was born to contribute to the Laudato Si’ Revolution Campaign of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Service of the Order of Friars Minor. Launched in October 2020, the song was meant to be an invitation to listen to the cry of the earth and the poor.



According to the composer, the song was constructed by contemplating the rhythmic, cultural and ancestral aspects of our peoples. “In the song we explore the elements of nature, with a swaying and indigenist rhythm. To make us understand this cry of the earth and the cry of the people”.

The lyrics invite us to think about the revolution that does not happen overnight, but silently. The melody, on the other hand, presents a more restrained and quiet musical style that explores the sounds of nature. Thus, lyrics and music together want to show that the revolution of Laudato Si’ happens silently, like the birth of a tree, of a seed in the forest that sprouts in silence. The music was intended to be an invitation to ecological conversion and also to acts that occur on a daily and ordinary basis. With a steady marching rhythm, it reveals that the Laudato Si’ Revolution cannot be something very sudden, instantaneous, but occurs harmoniously.

SINFRAJUPE is a network where Franciscans articulate their work, as a way to organize, think, deepen, study and also participate in the needs of society in a more articulated and integrated way.





## Launch of Laudato Si' Action Platform culminates Laudato Si' Week 2021

Showcasing the strength of the Catholic movement to care for creation, hundreds of thousands of Catholics participated in Laudato Si' Week 2021, a 10 day-celebration held from 16-25 May.

Catholics, inspired by the week's theme, "for we know that things can change" (LS 13), joined online Laudato Si' Dialogues and hosted events in their communities that helped their sisters and brothers deepen their knowledge of Pope Francis' hopeful but urgent message in Laudato Si'.

Cardinal Peter K. A. Turkson, Prefect of the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, said: "The powerful Laudato Si' Week 2021 shows again how Catholics are committed to caring for our common home and following Pope Francis' prophetic leadership. More than ever, people of faith understand that we must nurture our common home, and that in doing so, we're caring for the most vulnerable among us and lifting up the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor."

The Rev. Joshtrom Isaac Kureethadam, Head of the Vatican's Ecology and Creation Office, said: "It's inspiring to see how the Holy Spirit is moving the global Church to care for our common home and all members of creation."

After concluding the Laudato Si' Special Anniversary Year, Catholics now will turn their attention to the Season of Creation, the annual ecumenical celebration of prayer and action for our common home, held from 1 September through 4 October.

Communities across the globe will start planning how they can pray, take action, and advocate for our common home with the free Season of Creation Celebration Guide, available at [SeasonOfCreation.org](https://SeasonOfCreation.org). A one-page overview of the season can also be found [here](#).

Monsignor Bruno-Marie Duffé, Secretary of the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, reminded Catholics of Pope Francis' invitation for them to join the global Christian family in celebrating the season.

“We also encourage bishops and ecclesial bodies to make statements to raise awareness about the Season of Creation,” Duffé [wrote](#). “This Season of Creation will also be a critical moment for Catholics to lift up the voices of the most vulnerable and advocate on their behalf ahead of two important summits, the UN Summit on Biodiversity (COP 15) in October and the UN Climate Summit in November (COP 26).”

To that end, the [“Healthy Planet, Healthy People”](#) petition was launched during Laudato Si’ Week. Catholics and their institutions are encouraged to sign the petition that will ask world leaders to establish meaningful agreements that will repair our common home.

Catholics’ efforts will be aided by the new Laudato Si’ Action Platform. The Vatican-led effort will empower Catholic institutions, communities, and families to implement Laudato Si’ and was officially launched today. A new website, [LaudatoSi.va](#), has been published to support the initiative.

“The Laudato Si’ Action Platform is a journey towards total sustainability in the spirit of integral ecology,” the Rev. Kureethadam said.

During Laudato Si’ Week, tens of thousands of people participated in the global Laudato Si’ Dialogues that featured lively conversations about creating change ahead of UN summits later this year, Catholics’ “moral imperative” to divest from fossil fuels, and how Catholics and their institutions can undergo an ecological conversion, among other topics.

A Laudato Si’ music festival and a missionary-like sending of the faithful to spread the Gospel of Creation around the world were also attended by tens of thousands. Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Prefect of the Vatican’s Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, led the Pentecost prayer gathering/missionary sending.

The global events featured declarations and challenges from cardinals, Vatican leaders, bishops, and religious sisters. They highlighted the diversity of the Church, with leaders from the Philippines, Kenya, South Africa, Argentina, the United

Kingdom, Paraguay, USA, and India taking part, and the events showcased those who are on the frontlines of the climate crisis, including José Gregorio Diaz Mirabal, general coordinator of the Congress of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin.

Locally, nearly 200 events were registered on [LaudatoSiWeek.org](#) throughout the world, a growth of more than 200 percent compared to Laudato Si’ Week 2020. Those events truly gave the celebration meaning. Additionally, this year’s celebration was aided by 157 Catholic partners worldwide, compared to 137 in 2020.

Tomás Insua, executive director of the Global Catholic Climate Movement, said: “Catholics know that taking action against the ecological crisis and climate emergency is how we live out our faith.”

Online and throughout social media, Catholics amplified Pope Francis’ message. Page views on [LaudatoSiWeek.org](#) increased nearly 1,500 percent, and social media interactions grew by 170 percent compared to 2020. Pope Francis led the way, tweeting about #LaudatoSiWeek throughout the celebration.

Sr. Sheila Kinsey, the executive co-secretary for the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission, a project of the International Union of Superiors General, said: “Laudato Si’ Week was a deeply enriching time spiritually. The tremendous inspiration of the message of hope of Laudato Si’ continues to energize people to action around the globe.”

Laudato Si’ Week 2021 was sponsored by the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and facilitated by the Global Catholic Climate Movement in collaboration with RENOVA+, Caritas Internationalis, CIDSE, International Union Superiors General, Union of Superiors General, Society of Jesus, the General office for justice, peace, and integrity of creation from the Order from the Franciscan Friars, and in partnership with dozens of Catholic partners. More information can be found at [LaudatoSiWeek.org](#).

**Gabriel López Santamaria**  
Global Catholic Climate Movement





# LAUDATO SI' REVOLUTION CAMPAIGN



## Laudato Si Revolution Alive in the Caribbean Islands

The Franciscan Institute for Personal and Family Development, is a ministry of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother serving in three Caribbean islands; Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, and Saint Lucia. At the Franciscan Institute, they are dedicated to promoting a culture of peace where right relationships and community are nurtured in the Franciscan tradition of compassion, moderation, simplicity, and reverence for all creation. They aim to assist the participants to improve their quality of life by teaching non-violent ways of relating to self, others, and creation.

The institute commenced their partnership initiatives during the Covid-19 lockdown to raise digital awareness of the LS Revolution campaign. The institute created a digital social media campaign during key environmental days with the aim to encourage and promote integral ecological conversion, i.e., environmental, economic, and social ecology.

On May 24th, 2020, they embarked with a partnership invitation with the OFM Franciscan Friars JPIC office initiative Laudato Si' Revolution Campaign. This special campaign began during the Laudato Si' anniversary year from May 24th, 2020 and will end on May 24th, 2021. They also facilitated a Laudato Si' Online Youth Program. This online youth training program was creatively designed in celebrating the 5th Anniversary of Laudato Si' and Laudato Si' Week. The 5-day program started on Sunday May 24th and ended on May 28th, 2020. There were a total of 74 registrants with an average of 42 persons attending each day. Participants were from several different countries, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Guyana, and Canada.

As part of their collaboration and response to the Laudato Si Revolution Campaign, the institute conducted a Laudato Si' community outreach sessions at the Good Shepard RC Chapel, Corosal during the month of January and February. They learn that the community does not have access to pipe borne water. This proves to be a daily challenge to find water for drinking, cooking, bathing etc. The community rely solely on rain harvested water, however, during the dry season the lack of rain is a reality they face every year. Another challenge the community must endure is the deteriorating road conditions, whereby, the primary school children must walk to school. In addition to this, the nearby state-owned quarries have extended and use all sources of natural spring water and ground water.

Their cries for help from the government, local organizations including the archdiocese and media have gone unheard. Regardless of these conditions, their resilience as a community is evident. They were welcomed with warm hospitality and vibrant Eucharistic services at each visit. As a result, seven (7) youths agreed to form a Laudato Si' youth group where they would meet once a month at the community hall. The institute will assist with mentoring this Laudato Si' youth group.

Kudos Franciscan Institute for Personal and Family Development of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother for successfully making Laudato Si revolution alive in the Caribbean Island!



## The Laudato Si 'Revolution campaign culminates with an emotional festival in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean

*The night of Saturday May 29 was chosen by the organizers to carry out the closing festival of the campaign: "Praise be my Lord."*

**B**roadcast live on Facebook and YouTube, the festival's animators: Edith Fabiola Martínez, Ana Victoria López and Giselle González, welcomed and, making a brief account of the campaign that lasted a year, recalled that when the Encyclical Laudato Si 'turned 5 years old, the JPIC Commissions sought to help and promote the care of the common home, through three stages: "raising awareness" with three festivals (photography, drawing and good practices); "Analysis or reflection" (eco theology and migration) and "actions" where issues such as mining, extractivism, water and corruption were addressed.

During the Festival, various artistic interventions were presented that were made in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico. Nearly 120 people who were participating online were able to enjoy the music and talent of Fr. Adam Gómez, OFMCap (Mexico), Sr. Morena de Deleón, OFS (El Salvador), Hnas. Clarisas (El Salvador), Renee Arenas (Mexico), and JPIC Diriamba (Nicaragua) Fr. José Villareal, OFMCap (Mexico), Miriam Brizuela (Honduras), Helen Rodríguez (Guatemala), Hnas. Franciscanas (Guatemala)

Likewise, testimonies were collected from some brothers and sisters who were involved in the organization and execution of the campaign. Br. René Flores, OFM highlighted the "participation of the laity in the organization". Francis Wong, OFS, recalled this campaign "as an opportunity to meet in the midst of the pandemic." "It has been a revolution in life, it has transformed our lives," it was said with conviction by Sr. Brenda Chacón, IMF who actively collaborated in the communications area. Fr. Anselmo Maliaño, OFM recognized that it was not easy to organize, but that it has been possible to live a universal brotherhood. Brenda





Peralta gave his testimony near the end, saying that "as Franciscans, we recognize each other in any part of the world, and we are a JPIC family." Ivis Segundo, OFS recognizes that "the encyclical that Pope Francis has left is a challenge." Finally, German Ramírez highlighted "creativity, beauty and spirituality and that the encyclical has changed his family, recognizing itself as a Laudato Si family."

At the end of the Festival, the video "Boys and girls want a better world" (Honduras) was projected, which reminded us of Pope Francis' question, "What kind of world do we want to leave to those who are next to us, to children who are growing up?" (LS.160) The Laudato Si 'Revolution' campaign managed to involve families, parishes, schools, fraternities, men and women's religious, and the laity in Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. "The campaign does not end here, we go for more... we will continue the journey"

**Fr. Jaime Campos, OFM**  
JPIC Office  
Rome

**FESTIVAL ALABADO SEAS MI SEÑOR**  
*Un Espacio de Encuentro y de Armonía con la Creación*

**Transmisión por: Sábado 29 Mayo**  
**C.A. 7:30 pm MEX 8:30 pm**

JPIC OFM  
Conferencia Franciscana de México

JPIC OFM  
FAMILIA FRANCISCANA  
MÉXICO, CENTROAMÉRICA Y EL CARIBE









## JPIC Office present at the General Chapter 2021



*In his presentation of the Minister General's Report to the Chapter, Brother Michael Perry, spoke of the realities and directions of the Order today, and shared his dream of a fraternal and vital Order that promotes a profound human, spiritual, and social transformation, and that responds to the cry of the poor and the cry of the planet.*

The Minister General also spoke passionately of the necessity for our Order to the return to the original fraternal character of our founder, and for friars to reject the power and privilege of a clericalist mindset, and instead to live as lesser brothers in prayer and mission. He strongly emphasised the need for common access to resources and equal treatment of all friars, starting with the more widespread implementation of more Franciscan terms such as “Initial Formation Houses” instead of “Seminaries”, and “Brothers” instead of “Fathers and Brothers”.

In addition to the recommendations in the published Minister General's report, the Brother Michael highlighted the importance of open communication and fraternal dialogue between brothers at all levels, and of ensuring that Chapter mandates are implemented especially at local levels.

The challenge of the Minister General to all Friars is for all of us to examine our vocation of today, and to discern and chart a course our vocation for tomorrow, so as to be sources of inspiration, joy, and hope. This includes being willing to look at the reality around us with honesty, to live our Gospel identity authentically, and to be guided by faith rather than fear in making prophetic choices. Specifically, the challenge includes integrating faith and charity into daily fraternal life and creative pastoral outreach, that unites Formation, Mission and Evangelisation, and JPIC together in a holistic way.

As part of his presentation, the Minister General invited Brother Jaime Campos, Director of the General Office for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, to share on JPIC developments that are integral to the life of the Order. These include a Laudato Si' online training centre and animation of various JPIC initiatives. Brother Jaime emphasised the need to deepen the Order's prophetic lifestyle and charismatic identity, with ongoing dialogue in a spirit of synodality. As part of its communication and sharing of resources with the wider Order, the General Office has its own website on [www.ofmjp-pic.org](http://www.ofmjp-pic.org) as well as a Laudato Si' Revolution website on [www.laudatosirevolution.org](http://www.laudatosirevolution.org)

Capitulars met in small discussion groups to share their responses to the Minister General's Report, and also worked in language groups on guidelines for the Order today, that finds its meaning and direction in Christ, for the life of the world.

# International days – July to September, 2021

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| July 17                 | World Day for International Justice                                       |
| August 9                | International Day of the World's Indigenous People                        |
| August 23               | International Day of the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition |
| August 29               | International Day against Nuclear Tests                                   |
| September 1             | World Day for the Care of Creation  |
| September 1 ~ October 4 | <b>Season of Creation</b>   |
| September 16            | International Day for Preservation of the Ozone Layer                     |
| September 26            | World Day of Migrants and Refugees  |



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