



Laudato Si'
Special Anniversary Year
2020-2021

Meeting
25 June 2020

INTRODUCTION

RAFAEL CORSO

IFCA Secretariat Coordinator

Dear friends, welcome to all!

The Pope's appeal in Laudato si' #13, which proposes "to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development", is the first initiative of IFCA in this year especially dedicated to the Encyclical, responding to the call of Pope Francis on May 24th.

We also gather the requests that come from the document "On the Road to Care for the Common House", prepared by the Holy See's Inter-dicastery Table on Integral Ecology, presented a week ago; and we invite you to treat it together with the Encyclical, which, five years after its publication, continues to be the outline of "a road for the actors of the future". The reading and reflection of both documents must inspire an action incarnated in the harsh reality of this moment of pandemic, which has become a serious test for all humanity.

- Pope Francis in #3 of Laudato si' says ... "faced as we are with global environmental deterioration, I wish to address every person living on this planet.

"... and in #12 ... "Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise.",... that is why today, in the face of this universal call, as members of Catholic Action from our countries gathered in the International Forum, we want to renew our personal, institutional and community commitment to be witnesses and instruments of a true ecological conversion. This conversion, which begins in each one of us with awareness and a change of habits, must come to enrich the pastoral paths, particularly in our dioceses, in order to repair the damage and build, together with

all the local social forces, a model of integral and sustainable human development that responds both to the cry of the earth and to the cry of the poor.

- We thank Sandro for his availability and friendship with the Italian CA and FIAC. Sandro has accompanied us during these years and in particular during the 2017 Congress precisely in the part inspired by "Laudato si

- We are grateful to Eva, who is coordinating this moment and to those who are helping with the translation and organization of our meeting. Particularly to Codruta and Maria Grazia, and to the members of the Secretariat and the Continental Coordinators.

- Let us begin with the invocation of Pope Francis at Pentecost:

"Holy Spirit, memory of God, revive in us the memory of the gift received. Free us from the paralysis of selfishness and enkindle in us the desire to serve, to do good. Because worse than this crisis is only the drama of wasting it, closing ourselves up in ourselves".

"Come, Holy Spirit, You who are harmony, make us builders of unity; You who always give Yourself, grant us the courage to go out of ourselves, to love and help each other, to become one family.

Amen.