



Laudato Si'  
Special Anniversary Year  
2020-2021

SEASON OF CREATION  
1.09 - 4.10.2020  
Jubilee of the Earth

World Day of Prayer for  
the Care of Creation  
1st September

## THE COURAGE TO CHANGE TO EMERGE FROM THIS PANDEMIC BETTER PRAYER | REFLECTION | EXPERIENCES

Friday, 4 of September 2020 - online for 1h

### Presentation

- **Rafael CORSO**

*President of CA Argentina, IFCA Secretariat Coordinator.*

Dear Friends, a warm welcome to all of you to this meeting in which we congregate under the call of Pope Francis to have "The Courage to Change to emerge from this pandemic better."

"Each year, particularly since the publication of the Encyclical Laudato Si' (LS, 24 may 2015), the first day of September is celebrated by the Christian family as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and the beginning of the Season of Creation, which concludes on the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi on the fourth of October". (WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION. Pope Francis 1/9/2020)

The meetings promoted by IFCA in this special year of the fifth anniversary of 'Laudato Si' continue in this time of creation, and on this occasion we have chosen September 4, the day of liturgical memory of Blessed Giuseppe Toniolo, promoter of the Action Catholic, and "witness of the Gospel as a source of salvation for culture and society"

We continue to be affected internationally by the Pandemic and its consequences, trying to respond positively with a vision of faith to the great challenges that we have to face together in our daily lives and at all levels, from the local to the International and we are aware that we cannot and do not want to return to the situation we had before this great and difficult pandemic.

Pope Francis told us in the general audience of the recent August 19: " The pandemic is a crisis, and we do not emerge from a crisis the same as before: either we come out of it better, or we come out of it worse." and you cannot get out of it without putting at the center that preferential option for the poor " that it is not a political option but the center of the Gospel ".

"The pandemic has exposed the plight of the poor and the great inequality that reigns in the world. And the virus, while it does not distinguish between people, has found, in its devastating path, great inequalities and discrimination. And it has exacerbated them!"

Contemplating what happens to us, I dare to say that we are already beginning to be different. On one hand we are being traversed by situations of pain that hurt and transform life, that challenge us and demand new responses and adaptations. In this time, we have seen family, friends,

acquaintances, neighbors or fellow citizens dying. On the other hand, needs aroused and activated cooperation, closeness, assistance to the most vulnerable. Time, accompaniment, listening, emotional and economic support, fruitful dialogue, shared prayer, domestic church. Joys of recovery, pains of goodbyes !! ... We are not the same, we are experiencing human fragility and the extraordinary value of faith, hope and charity as gifts from God that regenerate and strengthen all his faithful People in adversity.

We are appreciating the irreplaceable values of solidarity and subsidiarity to go through difficulties together, "together in the same sea of concerns", "together in the same boat" with the desire to reach the new shore.

Now is the time to build a new, different and better normality, solidarity and community.

It is necessary that we can serve the whole man and all men from faith and knowledge to reestablish the natural and social bonds that give sustainability to the care of the Common home and allow to recreate access to work and employment, to health and education, security and justice, a decent habitat and the desire for a full life project.

May our Catholic Actions be instruments at the service of family and ecclesial communion and leaven of a community life founded on caring and sharing, Witnesses of a filial and fraternal faith.

### **# Today we are sharing this moment, sisters and brothers from 29 countries ...**

- Next we will ask the dear "Tuto", Jorge Juarez Veliz, from Argentina and the head of the Children's Coordination to present the work they are implementing.
- Afterwards, we will share a moment of prayer, reflection and discernment in this "Jubilee of the Earth", with the accompaniment of our General Assistant of the IFCA and of the CA Argentina, Mgr. Eduardo García, Bishop of San Justo, Argentina. We will also pray with him, attentive to the request of the Holy Father to live this fourth day as a day of prayer and fasting for Lebanon one month after the tragedy suffered.
- We will have the joy of receiving in the centre of our meeting "The courage to change to emerge from this pandemic better", to the dear Matteo Truffelli, President of the Italian Catholic Action and member of the FIAC Secretariat.
- As signals of hope and courage for the change, we will be able to share 3 experiences made in this time of the pandemic: From Africa: in Senegal, from America: in Venezuela, and finally in Belem, the Holy Land.
- Moreover, from the Holy Land, in this Day of Prayer for Lebanon, we will have an experience of brotherhood with Lebanon. Between Jerusalem and Beirut. An initiative of the young people of the Holy Land that also invites us to prayer and solidarity.