

IFCA
Laudato Si'
Special Anniversary Year
2020-2021

SEASON OF CREATION
1.09 - 4.10.2020
Jubilee of the Earth

ON THE ROAD WITH SAINT FRANCIS
He is the example par excellence of care for what is weak and of an integral ecology, lived with joy and authenticity
Laudato Si' 10

PRAYER | DIALOGUE | LISTENING

Friday, 2nd of October 2020* - online for 1h

9.00 Argentina
12.00 Senegal
14.00 Italy, Burundi, Spain, Malta

15.00 Romania, Holy Land
20.00 Philippines

*awaiting the new encyclical of Pope Francis: "Brothers all" on fraternity and social friendship

Languages: Italian | Spanish | English
For registration: www.catholicactionforum.org

In the Way with Francesco (IFCA)

October 20th 2020

fr. Matteo BRENA OFM

Commissary of the Holy Land

In the name of the Father ...

Let us invoke the Holy Spirit to help us enter with our existence into the grace of being collaborators in God's work on earth.

O Holy Spirit Paraclete,
perfect the work begun by Jesus in us;
make strong and continuous
the prayer we do in the name of the whole world:
speed up the times for each of us
of a profound inner life:
give impetus to our apostolate,
that you want to reach all men and all peoples,
all redeemed by the Blood of Christ and all his inheritance.

We want to enter into this moment of prayer, dialogue and listening trying to take concrete steps towards a real "transformation of the heart" animated by the example of St. Francis of Assisi where education in environmental responsibility becomes an expression of the ability to live together and in communion.

Francis is the saint who more than any man experiences a sense of gratitude for the gift of the world received from God's love and the awareness of not being separated from other creatures, of being intimately connected in a universal communion.

From this spirit of universal communion we want in this moment that sees us geographically distant, but close in desire, in the ideas of the spirit, in the hope of being the same leaven in our societies so different from each other.

Placing himself in front of God the father of all, Francis discovers his brothers and sisters everywhere. In his Testament he says "The Lord gave me brothers". It is the strongest legacy that the saint of Assisi left to his followers. In fact it is the universal fatherhood of God that indicates the boundaries of fraternity, which therefore has no boundaries; and it is the Gospel of the Lord that tells us how to behave as brothers of all. Man discovers that he lives in a "common home" in which relationships are familiar and everything that happens in this house is a "family matter" ... even the dirty clothes ...

For this reason Francis goes beyond the institutional boundaries of fraternity meant as a religious fraternity to meet the thieves of Montecasale; he leaves the walls of Assisi to place himself at the service of his leper brothers, he moves with zeal through the streets of Central Italy to meet men and women in need of hope and healing of the heart; he goes beyond the borders of Christianity and of the crusade to dialogue with the sultan.

In order to dialogue with everyone, enter into a relationship, one must learn everyone's language. Facing the ferocious thief described in the Fioretti as the "wolf of Gubbio", Francesco's ability to seriously listen to the reasons of others emerges: the wolf is aggressive because he is hungry, the inhabitants of Gubbio chase him because they are afraid. Listening and the sincere will to find the solution leads to feeding the wolf, which becomes so meek and no longer scary. How many wolves, how many fears and how many wars are there! And how many barriers we have raised and continue to raise to divide, defend, oppose, keep the different ones away!

Pope Francis with "Laudato si" becomes the new interpreter of the perennial provocation of St. Francis. A challenge that concerns us and touches us all: the environmental one. It is not just an encouragement to assume an ecological spirit but an appeal to change our lifestyle to protect and preserve the "common home" with a conversion that is both ecological and communal.

The Pope writes: "Today we cannot but recognize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach, which must integrate justice into discussions on the environment in order to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor".

Christian spirituality then becomes an alternative way to understand the quality of life. Following the model of St. Francis of Assisi, education in environmental responsibility becomes an expression of the ability to live together and in communion. As brothers!

REQUEST FOR FORGIVENESS TO THE FATHER

We ask your forgiveness, Father, for the times when, looking at nature, we remained cold, we did get fascinated by its beauty, and for the times we ruined it and made it inhospitable, obscuring the luminous harmony of creation.

Lord, have mercy!

We ask your forgiveness, Lord, for the times when the earth has become an object of possession and contention between peoples, a place of domination, of oppression and not a peaceful space for meeting and dialogue between different cultures.

Christ, have mercy!

We ask your forgiveness, Lord, for the times when hatred and violence have wounded relationships between men, when the brother killed the brother whose blood cries from the earth.

Lord have mercy!

In a of silence we entrust our request for forgiveness to the Lord for all those times we have not created a family space capable of welcoming the life, the questions, the needs of our brothers.

(silence)

And now together in our own language we pray with the words that we are family members, brothers and sisters and inhabitants of the same house:

Our father...

FINAL PRAYER (together)

Father, grant us to inhabit the earth

respecting the delicate balance of nature

and continuing the work of creation in a harmonious way; make us contemplative, capable of grasping the mystery of your love hidden in every reality

and grant us to live in peace

building peaceful and collaborative relationships.

May your Son Jesus, indissoluble bond between heaven and earth, make our journey ever brighter in the midst of the darkness of the world.

Amen