

**FIAC**  
FICA

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](http://www.catholicactionforum.org)

## On the road with St. Francis

### CA ALBANIA: Reflection and experience

#### Brikena LAZRI

National Secretary CA Albania

St. Francis, with his life, made us know the evil caused by those who dominate. The earth was entrusted to us by the Creator so that we take care of it, we protect it in order to deliver it better to the new generations.

A right relationship with nature is the secret of the quality of life but not of a life of luxury, which leaves too much room for technology and comfort. Dominating the earth to exploit it more and more, without thinking about the consequences, living in consumerism by polluting the environment, air, the sea with waste is a war we make to our mother earth.

This War is not only against nature, but almost against the Creator, instead of showing gratitude for what He has given us and continues to give us, always freely.



St. Francis praises, sings and thanks the Creator for what he has done with perfection and love, inviting us too to say: "Praised be my Lord ..." for all the wonders that surround us.

I recall of the testimony of a man who fell ill with Covid 19 and had to pay very dearly for oxygen for one day. He thought back to how grateful he must have been to the Lord for having guaranteed him free oxygen for all the days of his life.

St. Francis invites us to recognize God's omnipotence in the universe and beyond, even in the smallest creatures because He surrounds everyone with His love.

We must pray the Lord to give us His love so that we take care of life and its beauty daily.

We must be vigilant so that the wealth, the comforts, the assured standard of living do not favor in us an attitude of closure facing the needs of our brothers, whoever they are.

We are experiencing a pandemic that has put us in a position of discomfort, but has also given us the opportunity to reflect and think about our life and our relationships. How much suffering not being able to see our grandparents, our parents; perhaps before we were distracted from daily commitments and neglected our closeness, now we miss it more and suffer from it, but we must look to tomorrow with confidence and rebuild our human relationships of brotherhood.

During the lockdown it was not easy, but we managed to continue the relationship with our catechetical boys, online: we had strong and significant moments and carried out a project of the Catholic Action of Lezhe: we discovered prayers, poems, invocations, popular songs imprinted in memory, (thanks to listening and dialogue with grandparents and their ability to memorize, which was the only way to do catechesis).

The boys have been committed to collecting and transmitting this great wealth to deliver it in our today of history.



The past always has its charm and speaks to us of the life of our loved ones with all their human experience. This material has attracted the kids who assimilated the contents. It was also an opportunity to learn new prayers, different ways to turn to the Lord, the life of Jesus, Mary and the saints told with new language and images. Traditional festivals full of signs and colors that risk being forgotten over time, have been rediscovered and compared with our way of living, celebrating and being together with our family, with neighbors, by a new belonging to the community. Many of our children's grandparents are illiterate and while they tell about their way of celebrating Christmas, Easter and patronal feasts, they also convey the simplicity and joy that united everyone. In the past, faith was internalized, which is why it was preserved even during the harsh dictatorship of the atheistic system that our people lived.

The pandemic has given children the opportunity to spend a long time with their grandparents and thus get to know a world they would otherwise never have known. After having collected all this material, during the Holy Easter period, it was read and told by the young people themselves and then broadcast by Radio Maria Albania.

A wonderful experience for the children, their families and the whole community, a strong help to remain in communion, to live the Easter joy and the relationship with the Lord of history.

The same boys prepared messages of hope and Easter greetings that, inserted in helium balloons, were flown to the sky to be in communion with the world in pandemic.

And, like St. Francis, we tried "to touch hearts" without thinking of our advantage, but with the only desire to recognize that we are deeply united with all creatures and on the way to a new light that never goes out.

"Touch the hearts of those who seek only advantages,  
At the expense of the poor and the land.  
Teach us to discover the value of everything,  
To contemplate with amazement,  
To recognize that we are deeply united  
With all creatures  
In our path towards your infinite light. "

Praised be you my Lord today and forever.