

## Collaborate in the care of our Common Home

Pope Francis, in his encyclical “Laudato Si’,” reminds us that “all human beings share responsibility for care of creation.” He notes that “the damage done to the earth is also damage done to the most vulnerable, such as indigenous peoples, peasants forced to emigrate, and the inhabitants of urban peripheries.”

This **Universal Apostolic Preference** challenges us to collaborate with others in the construction of alternative models of life that are based on respect for creation and on a sustainable development capable of producing goods that, when justly distributed, ensure a decent life for all human beings on our planet.”

He reminds us that “the preservation over time of the conditions of life on our planet is a human responsibility of immense ethical and spiritual importance.” It concerns everyone.

He speaks of an “ecological conversion” which ... enables us to sense and celebrate, more deeply, our embeddedness in God’s good creation, and which challenges us to resist more thoroughly those patterns of being which prevent the whole community from flourishing.

For him, the “ecological conversion needed to bring about lasting change” is not merely an individual endeavour, but a “community conversion.” Only together can we acknowledge our brokenness, attune to our giftedness, and commit ourselves to the flourishing of all beings. This is real “ecological conversion” on both an individual and community level.

**What, then, can we do as individuals and as a parish to encourage this “ecological conversion”?**

**What do I need to change, in myself, that will enable Creation to flourish?**

There are certainly many practical things we can do to care for our planet and for others and as COP26 in Glasgow, in November, approaches, it is an opportunity to reflect on these things.

Francis tells us that Jesus “was in constant touch with nature, lending it an attention full of fondness and wonder.” His gaze was attentive, sensitive, and loving. “As he made his way throughout the land, he often stopped to contemplate the beauty sown by his Father and invited his disciples to perceive a divine message in things.”

**How might our deepening encounter with Jesus inspire us to imitate this gaze?**

**Can we find creative ways to come into closer touch with the natural world, contemplating its beauty, opening ourselves to the divine message embedded in all beings?**



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