

PASSIONIST *LAUDATO SI'* PROGRAM
Passion of the Earth – Wisdom of the Cross
FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Passion of the Earth, Wisdom of the Cross is the first Passionist program engaging *Laudato Si'*. It is composed of six sessions released over 12 months. Each session has five parts:

1. Education: Embrace the Message – Understand and gain insight into a central theme of each chapter of *Laudato Si'*.
2. Motivation: Consider the Issues – Become familiar with and sensitized to the significant environmental and social issues addressed in the encyclical.
3. Discussion: Engage in Dialogue – Create and structure lively community conversations to engage in ecological conversion and systemic change.
4. Respond: Take Action – Consider practical and concrete choices for taking action to live out the directives of *Laudato Si'*.
5. Resources: Learn More – Access additional information on the theme and action steps of each session.

The seven-year process of creating a *Laudato Si'* Action Platform officially begins on 4 October 2021.

- Over the next year, convene those in your local community or ministry site for at least six 90-minute sessions to begin the process of engaging *Laudato Si'*. Distribute the six brochures of the *Passion of the Earth, Wisdom of the Cross* program as they are released. Invite vowed members, staff, employees, volunteers, and others who play key roles in your community to participate. Brochures will be emailed to members of the congregation as they are published over the upcoming year.
- Integral to the process of **ecological conversion** is dialogue. Conversion moments can happen when people sit in a circle, pray, and grapple together with content. Participants should read the brochure prior to the group meeting. Begin using the prayers provided or create your own. Structure the

90-minute session so there is ample time for both discussion of the encyclical content (parts 1-3) and consideration of actions steps to be taken (part 4). Use the questions provided to guide the discussion or come up with your own. The facilitator should decide in advance which topics to consider.

- Allow each person to share their reflections for two to three minutes. Listening is an essential ingredient to dialogue. After everyone has shared, open the topic for conversation. Before moving to the next question, allow for a few moments of silence so people can recollect themselves.
- Allow at least 30 minutes to consider actions steps your community or organization will commit to undertake. Many of the suggested action steps in this international program are more appropriate in some places than in others. The action steps a community commits to undertake will be shaped by its context – high income or low income countries, urban or rural settings.
- Ask someone to record the key aspects of the sharing and complete the online Action Report. In order to create a congregational *Laudato Si'* Action Platform, each local community and ministry site is to report on the action steps their entity has committed to undertake.
- After each session, a representative from your group makes a report by going to <https://www.passiochristi.org/laudato-si/> and completing the online form.

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