

Passionists Engaging *Laudato Si'*
A 7-Year Commitment to Building a *Laudato Si'* Action Platform
GUIDELINES FOR LEADERS

Since 2017 when it was created by Pope Francis, the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development has undertaken a rigorous study of the most impactful ways to achieve “*total sustainability in the spirit of integral ecology.*” The result of that research has guided the creation of our Passionist *Laudato Si'* Action Platform.

Three criteria and guiding principles shape our Passionist engagement with *Laudato Si'*.

- Simple and gradual – all of our programs must be simple and gradual enough to be manageable. Communities are often already overstretched with limited number of personnel. The process should not scare them away from making a commitment.
- Inspiring – all of our programs must be inspiring enough to motivate. Members of the province need to see this as an opportunity to renew our Passionist charism in the 21st century and fulfill the vision of our 300th jubilee celebration.
- Flexible – all of our programs must be flexible enough to suit different contexts. There is no one-size-fits-all approach. Local adaptations are essential.

Role of Leadership

The role of leadership is vitally important for us to bring forth a Passionist *Laudato Si'* Action Platform and report our progress over the next seven years. Leaders are entrusted with guiding the process, otherwise it could flounder.

Public Commitment.

- Commit your community to making the transition to an integral ecology. Create a manifesto stating your intentions.

- Communicate the commitment to the public. Put it on your website. Release it to the press. This not only lets your constituents know of your blessed endeavor to respond to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor but helps ensure some accountability.
- Be accountable – make regular reports on commitments and progress on provincial and congregational websites.
- Celebrate accomplishments at province gatherings and during the Catholic Season of Creation – from September 1 (World Day of Prayer for Creation) to October 4 (Feast of St. Francis). Prayer and liturgical celebrations are very much part of the process towards integral ecology.

Transition to Integral Ecology:

- Appoint a representative from your province or vice-province to coordinate your efforts to bring forth a *Laudato Si'* Action Platform.
- Embed your plan into your province (vice-province) annual priorities.
- Evaluate, track and report the progress of your province (vice-province) according to the seven *Laudato Si'* Action Platform goals.

Journey Together:

- Network with other religious communities and Catholic organizations working to realize the *Laudato Si'* vision and values.
- Advocate for systemic change by participating in global campaigns.
- Link up with *Laudato Si'* resource and action websites.

Building a *Laudato Si'* Action Platform

The *Laudato Si'* Action Platform works only insofar as it works on the ground. As Pope Francis says, “*realities are more important than ideas.*” Therefore, we need to hear about your experience and the adaptation you make to ensure it truly serves the needs of your province or vice-province.

“Passion and 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.

- Part 1: Education – EMBRACE THE MESSAGE
Understand and gain insight into a central theme of each chapter of *Laudato Si'*.
- Part 2: Motivation – CONSIDER THE ISSUES
Become familiar with and sensitized to the significant environmental and social issues addressed in the encyclical.
- Part 3: Discussion – ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE
Create and structure lively community conversations to engage in ecological conversion and systemic change.
- Part 4: Respond – TAKE ACTION
Consider practical and concrete choices for taking action to live out the directives of *Laudato Si'*.
- Part 5: Resources – LEARN MORE
Access additional information on the theme and action steps of each session.

Part 4 is where we look for action, results and outcome. In that section you will find a list of possible actions steps. Participants are not expected to do all of the actions, but rather select a handful from the menu of options. They are to choose the actions that are best for their own interests and priorities.

You are encouraged to adapt each of these actions to your context. Many of the action steps are more appropriate in some places than in others. The action steps a community commits to undertaking will be shaped by its context – high income or low income countries, urban or rural settings.

In order to create our global Passionist *Laudato Si'* Action Platform, we are asking someone from each community or ministry site to report on the action steps their entity has committed to undertaking. After each session, please assure that a representative from each entity in your province or vice-province makes a report by going to www.passiochristi.org and completing the response form.

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