



CONGREGAZIONE DELLA PASSIONE DI GESÙ CRISTO  
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*Il Superiore Generale*

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**ENGAGING LAUDATO SI'**  
**Passionist Program**  
***Passion of the Earth – Wisdom of the Cross***

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends in the Passionist Family,

On 25 May 2021, the sixth anniversary of *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis launched the ***Laudato Si'* Action Platform (LSAP)**, a call to all Catholic entities to achieve a sustainable integral ecology over the next seven years. He spoke of this as an urgent appeal (LS 13-16) to “*transform our way of dwelling in the world, our lifestyle, our relationship with the resources of the Earth and, in general, our way of looking at humanity and of living life.*”

Initiated by Pope Francis and developed by the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, LSAP is structured as a seven-year journey of ecological conversion for all Catholic organizations to take “*decisive action, here and now*” (LS 161) in responding to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor.

LSAP convenes action from seven sectors within the Catholic community: (1) families and individuals, (2) parishes and dioceses, (3) educational institutions (primary and secondary schools, universities, and other centers of education), (4) hospitals and healthcare institutions (5) organizations (lay movements, NGOs, foundations, and communication centers), (6) economic sector (businesses, farms, and co-operatives), and (7) religious (religious orders, provinces, and local communities).

Our Passionist Congregation has made a seven-year commitment to engage in creating a *Laudato Si'* Action Platform. Aligned with our charism, the inaugural six-session program is entitled **Passion of the Earth, Wisdom of the Cross**.

As you are aware, on 24 May 2021, at a special international Zoom session for all leaders of the Congregation, in collaboration with our Passionist Solidarity Network (USA), I launched the Passionist initiative calling upon all members of the Passionist family to commit to and engage with *Laudato Si'* by your participation in the program **Passion of the Earth, Wisdom of the Cross**. The introduction and first session of the six-session program was sent out to the Passionist family on 4 June 2021.

In order to align with the timeline of the LSAP which is marking the opening of its plans on 4 October 2021 (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi), I again strongly encourage and call you, especially as communities and groups, to dedicate around 90 minutes to the first session

of our program. Subsequent sessions (2-6) of the program will follow bi-monthly over the next year.

Obviously, the role of leadership is critical in engaging the interest and participation of everyone in this pursuit of our common formation, personal and institutional conversion, change in lifestyle and behavior. As Pope Francis said: “*Our goal is to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it.*” (LS 19).

At the launching of our Passionist program last May, I reminded our Congregation’s leaders of their responsibility to ensure that this program is structured and promoted at the different levels of our respective entities, to encourage the participation of all members, and to give accountability by sending reports of issues discussed and actions adopted to the General Secretariat.

It is proposed that the Provincial or Vice Provincial of each entity nominate a ***Laudato Si’* animator** who would coordinate and assure the implementation of the current program and, together with the other animators, would be involved as a team in the preparation of future programs over the next seven years.

I attach with this letter a document with some **helpful guidelines for leaders** and a document with **suggestions for facilitating the meeting of a session**.

Once again, I acknowledge and thank on behalf of us all the members of our Passionist Solidarity Network in Louisville (Kentucky), USA for their collaboration and hard work in the ongoing development of the program **Passion of the Earth, Wisdom of the Cross**.

By creating a *Laudato Si’* Action Platform, we Passionists find a new and relevant application of our charism, *memoria passionis*, and a way of fulfilling the theme of our 300th jubilee – *renewing our mission*.

Fraternally,



*J. Rego, C.P.*

P. Joachim Rego, C.P.  
Superior General