



A means of communication between the World Leadership Community in discernment and every member of the World Community

HORIZONS



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World CLC Day 2025:

CLC Celebrates 10th Anniversary of *Laudato Si'* Encyclical

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Dear friends and companions of CLC,

We are pleased to introduce Horizons 183 to you. This Horizons is another experiment that we are sure you will welcome with the same energy and enthusiasm that we have. The W-ExCo (World Leadership Community) invited the International Ecology Apostolic Team of CLC to lead our world community in a year of celebration, reflection, prayer and action that will commemorate the **10th anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'***. We are sure you will find interesting reading and ideas that you can use personally, in your sharing communities, your community in your country and even in your global region. Our common home needs our common concern and response. This issue is so global that even CLCers, CLC friends and families are affected by global climatic catastrophes. To mention a few: the hurricanes in the USA, the wildfires in Canada and Ecuador, the flash flooding in Spain, Italy and Germany, the typhoons in Taiwan and the Philippines, and many more that we are sure you are aware of.

Horizons is an important communication document of the W-ExCo (World Leadership Community) and by extension, the international team. Sometimes they, too, may be using this space to communicate with you. The aim of this experiment of connecting, cooperating and collaborating with our international teams will, we are sure, help to continue building our one world community. Thus, the message of the World Leadership Community may sometimes be better articulated through one of the international teams that work with us in specific regions or apostolic priorities.

Please share this ***Horizons 183*** with everyone in the community. Let us walk together on this anniversary of *Laudato Si'* and share your stories. We hope to meet you on this journey.

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Greetings!

With this letter, we invite members of our world community to observe the 10th Anniversary of Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si'* during 2025! Indeed, the themes of this encyclical are still relevant today: how God communicates to us through nature, how it is our responsibility to hear the cries of the earth and the poor, and how we can seek concrete pathways of hope together. In this letter, we offer some context and reflection questions, some ways to celebrate World CLC Day in March 2025, and some ways to engage with the ecological issues as Pope Francis suggests in his encyclical because ultimately, we strive to live in loving communion and to be in solidarity with the most vulnerable.

God Communicates to Us through Nature

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis writes, "Saint Francis, faithful to Scripture, invites us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of God's infinite beauty and goodness." "Through the greatness and the beauty of creatures one comes to know by analogy their maker" (*Wis* 13:5); indeed, "God's eternal power and divinity have been made known through God's works since the creation of the world." (*Rom* 1:20). [LS 12]

Reflect: How has God revealed beauty and wonder to you through nature? Contemplating nature, how has your understanding of a Creator God expanded? What have you learned from the magnificent book of nature?

Hearing the Cries

The scriptures for the Third Sunday of Lent on March 23, 2025, express God's desire for us to know how close God is to us and the necessity for us to act in ways consistent with God's heavenly vision for us. In the first reading, the Lord says to Moses: "*I have witnessed the affliction of my people... I have heard their cry... so I know well what they are suffering. Therefore, I have come down to rescue them... and lead them out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey.*" In the second reading, the Apostle Paul reminds us to learn from the experience of our ancestors and not to desire evil things or we, too, may suffer death by the destroyer. In the Gospel passage, Jesus cautions us to change our ways. He speaks about a fig tree that bears fruit through nurturing not only of the tree but also of the soil around it; otherwise, it should be cut down. In the Gospel acclamation Jesus preaches the message: "*Turn away from your sins because the Reign of God is at hand.*" (Matt 4:17)

Currently, in too many places in our world, people are suffering. Very recently, we heard from members of CLC in Lebanon, "It has been a hard night! The explosions are not stopping!" Many of us around the world are profoundly saddened by the violence, devastation and sorrow in the Holy Land. We weep upon learning of members in our community suffering the effects of war in Lebanon but also in other parts of the world facing active conflict including Syria, Haiti, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ukraine, and many other places.

In addition to the cries of the poor, we hear the cries of the earth. Pope Francis writes in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*: "Due to an ill-considered exploitation of nature, humanity runs the risk of destroying it and becoming in turn a victim of this degradation." He speaks about "the potential for an ecological catastrophe under the effective explosion of industrial civilization." He stressed "the urgent need for a radical change in the conduct of humanity." [LS 4] Scientists worldwide confirm this ecological crisis and the urgency for action. In reflecting GP #4, we are particularly aware of the pressing need

to work for justice through a preferential option for the poor and a simple lifestyle, which expresses our freedom and solidarity with the suffering.

Reflect: What are the cries that you and/or your community are hearing at this time? How do these cries make you feel? How are you participating in the system or culture that is causing these cries and suffering, for example, the “throwaway culture”? What are some behaviors that need changing?

Hope-Filled Action

Jesus’ words, “Repent, for the Reign of God is at hand,” resonate loudly. We hear and see the cries, but even as Jesus calls us to action, Jesus also calls us to trust and hope, that despite the suffering, we can turn to God and find a way toward God’s Reign, trusting that God is near, that God’s Reign is near.

The celebration of the 10th Anniversary of *Laudato Si’* offers us a way to acknowledge the cries AND to trust and hope in God’s accompaniment toward life-giving, healing actions in our world. We seek to find paths of hope in a world experiencing devastation of many forms – war, poverty, forced migration, drought, famine, pollution, storms with fiercer intensity and frequency. One of the beautiful gifts of CLC has been this sense of ourselves as a world community. Like the Trinity looking at our world, together we can have a similar vision of the world as we share perspectives from over 80 national communities. In this way, we can help each other see a fuller picture of God’s creation and our interconnectedness.

Reflect: What inspires you to hope? What are the hope-filled actions that you and/or your community are seeing in response to the cries you are hearing? What responses have you or members of your community enacted, if any?

World CLC Day Theme: *Laudato Si’*

World CLC Day offers all our members an opportunity to pray, reflect and act in our local and regional communities on a common theme of importance for our CLC charism. For this year’s theme, we are encouraging reflections using the *Laudato Si’* encyclical. We are also encouraging each community to engage in a simple action by which we can feel a stronger sense of communion and solidarity in caring for creation.

One of the most often overlooked aspects of *Laudato Si’* as a social encyclical is that the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor cannot be considered separately- they are a single cry. Pope Francis himself emphasizes reflection on how these two are linked, and how our lives are part of this. A review of lifestyle, integrity of vocation & mission, and how local communities can support each other (and the structures they belong to) in an ecological conversion may be a very particular CLC contribution to profound personal and social change consistent with *Laudato Si’*.

Prayer using *Laudato Si’*. You can also find resources for prayer on the *Laudato Si’* Movement Resource page: <https://laudatosimovement.org/resources/>

Prayer using the video [All Creatures Lament](#)

Tree Planting and Soil Care. We invite members to incorporate planting a tree into their service. This action of planting a tree calls to mind the Gospel reading which values the caring for a tree and the soil around it in order for the tree to bear fruit. We encourage groups to plant the tree around World CLC Day (Saturday 22 or Sunday 23 March), **take a photo of your tree** (or a shrub or plant) **planting** and post it online with the hashtag #LaudatoSiCVX-

CLC. Let's see which national community posts the greatest number of photos with this hashtag!

Throughout the Year

Please note these three key times in 2025, which provide global opportunities to observe and join others in raising ecological awareness, engaging in education, participating in prayer services, taking action, and advocating for the environment:

Laudato Si' Week

May 24-31, 2025

Season of Creation

September 1 World Day of Prayer for Creation till October 4 Feast of St. Francis

UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP30)

November 10 - 21, 2025 in Brazil

As you and your community consider action on the ecological crises, here are some suggestions organized in the categories: Ecological Conversion, Sustainability, and Advocacy.

Ecological Conversion - Awareness / Education / Prayer

- **The Week.** This 3-session small group program offers videos and questions for group conversation. Recommended by Fr. David McCallum SJ of the Discerning Leadership Program based in Rome. It is free for faith groups, and it is relatively easy to facilitate. You can find information on how to do this here: <https://www.theweek.ooo/>
- **Eco Retreats and Eco Spirituality programs** organized by various national and local CLC groups, for example, CVX in Egypt and in France.
- **The film "The Letter"** tells the story of the journeys to Rome of frontline leaders to discuss the encyclical letter *Laudato Si'* with Pope Francis. <https://theletterfilm.org/>
- **Video by CLC in Australia** on the beauty and ecological devastation in their country: <https://www.clcaustralia.org.au/>

Sustainability

- ***Laudato Si' Action Platform.*** This ambitious program co-hosted by the Vatican Dicastery of Integral Human Development seeks to mobilize people, families, parishes, schools, businesses and other units to move toward sustainability. The platform encourages discerning a plan of action in seven goal areas.



More information on how to register for this program can be found here: <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>

- **The Great Transition Handbook** is a concrete tool for building the foundational knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for ecological and social transition. <https://campus-transition.org/en/the-great-transition-handbook/>

Advocacy

- **Local Actions** in advocacy can include promoting local policies for cleaner energy and sustainability. Members might sign petitions, participate in marches, meet with governmental leaders, as well as vote for elected officials who are committed to addressing the climate crisis or other advocacy initiatives.
- **Law Frontier.** Law is a frontline and one of the few where victories can be celebrated nowadays. In 2021, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution that recognized the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as a human right; in 2022, the UN General Assembly adopted a similar resolution. The resolutions called upon countries to work together to implement this right. This resolution is especially needed in places like the Amazon and the Congo where environmental human rights defenders face reprisals for standing up for their rights. In addition, sharing successful legal cases can raise awareness and potential for increased support of such rights.
- **Global Initiatives** can include campaigns with some of the networks with whom CLC collaborates, including:
 - EcoJesuit <https://www.ecojesuit.com/>
 - *Laudato Si'* Movement <https://laudatosimovement.org/what-we-do/>

Reflect: How can you and/or your community deepen your ecological conversion during 2025? What concrete action or initiative can your community take in the year 2025 in response to the cries of the poor and the cries of the earth? Do any of the above ideas resonate, or are there others?

Share Your Stories

1. **Instagram** @cvx_clc
2. **Facebook Groups**
 - a. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cvxclcecology>
 - b. <https://www.facebook.com/CVXCLC>
 - c. @CVX_CLC
3. **Hashtags:** #LaudatoSiCVX-CLC
4. **Email:** ecology@cvx-clc.net
5. **Website:** <https://cvx-clc.net/en/what-we-do/ecology/>

Resources

- ***Laudato Si'* Encyclical**
https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html
- **Laudato Deum Apostolic Exhortation**
https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html

Laudato Si' Prayer by Pope Francis

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

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