

TOGETHER FOR MISSION

A NEWSLETTER FOR PARTNERS IN MISSION

REDEMPTORIST CONFERENCE OF NORTH AMERICA



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The Season of Creation is an ecumenical event that takes place every year, from September 1 to October 4, celebrating the gift of Creation and promoting an integrated ecological awareness. Through the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Pope Francis has invited all Catholics to join in this celebration with prayer and concrete action on behalf of our wounded world, our Common Home. This year, we are marking the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' groundbreaking 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si'*.

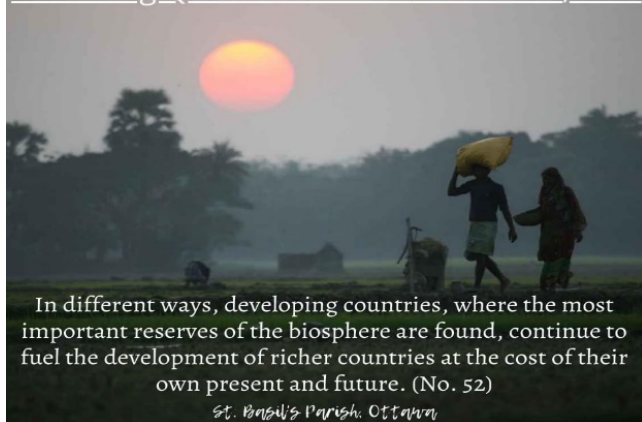
The Season of Creation presents, for all members of the Redemptorist family, an opportunity to read *Laudato Si'* through the lens of our Redemptorist tradition, our various apostolic ministries, and our concrete circumstances. The challenges of our wounded world become even more pressing amid the current pandemic. So this encyclical constitutes "a moral and spiritual guide for the creation of a more supportive and sustainable world."

The Redemptorist General Commission for Social Ministry, Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (SM-JPIC) has developed some resources to inspire us in our reflection and effort to incorporate the spirit of *Laudato Si'* into the liturgy, our personal and family lives, and our apostolic outreach. In this way, the General Commission is trying to assist us as we strive to proclaim the plentiful redemption of Jesus Christ with creative fidelity in the concrete realities within which we live and minister. On the website www.seasonofcreation.org, you can find a series of local initiatives and actions distributed throughout the world that will take place until October 4, and that can inspire similar activities at the local level.

LINKS TO SOME RESOURCES SUGGESTED BY OUR GENERAL COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL MINISTRY, JUSTICE, PEACE AND INTEGRITY OF CREATION (SM-JPIC)

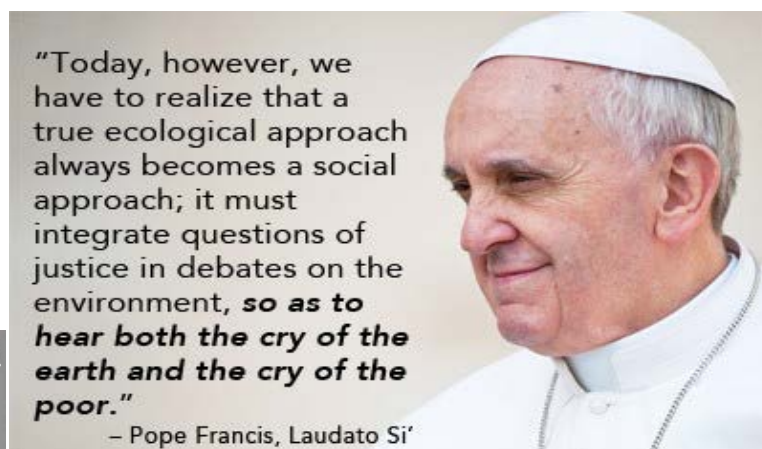
Discovering the Ecological Dimension of Redemptorist Spirituality

Year-Long Quotations from *Laudato Si'*, # 90

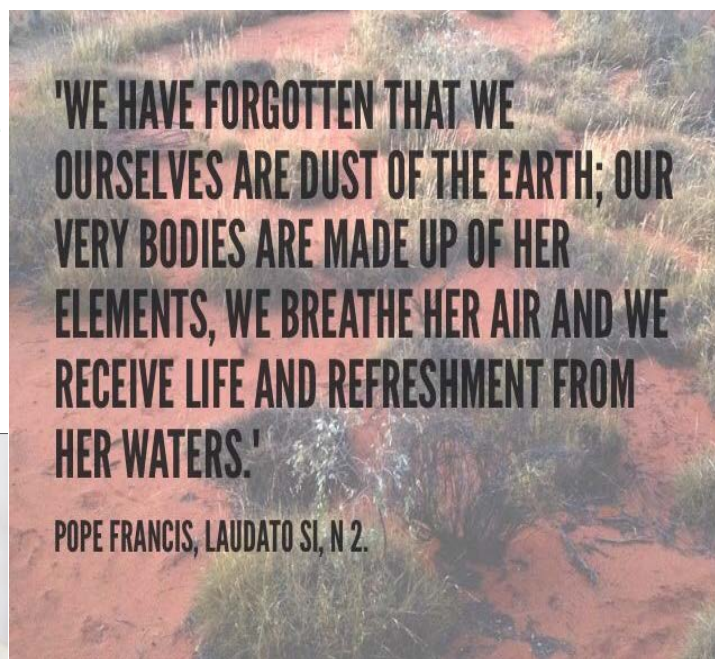


Season of Creation 2020 – Celebration Guide

Serving a Wounded World – a joint document of World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue (PCID)



A Journey with Creation (Laudato Si' Week 2020) – Fr. Ivel Mendanha, C.Ss.R. presents to us the series of videos reflecting on Pope Francis' document on Care for Our Common Home.

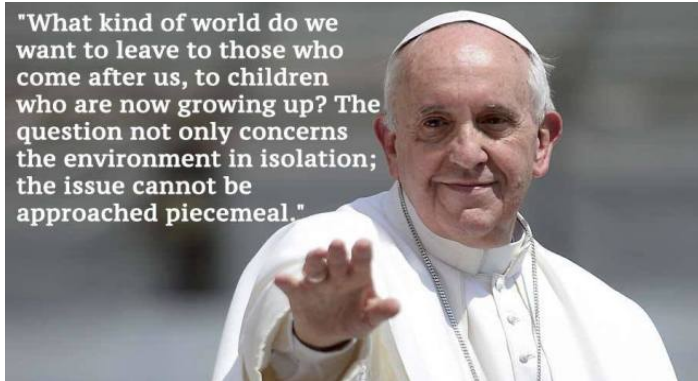


Season of Creation 2020 – Jubilee Time for the Earth. A Catholic Liturgical Guide

ST. ALPHONSUS PRAYS WITH CREATION

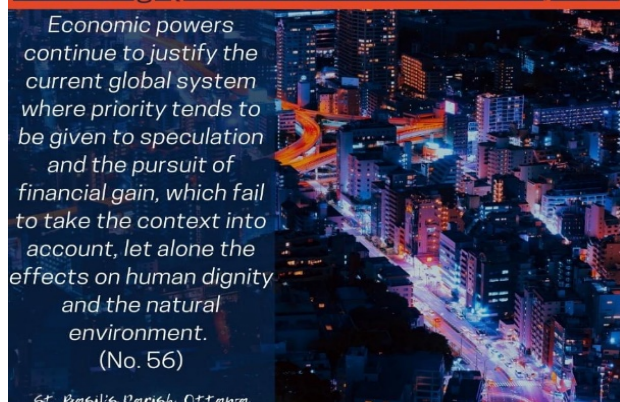
St. Alphonsus Liguori's spiritual gem entitled *Conversing with God as a Friend* was first published in 1753. It is therefore one of Alphonsus' earliest works. Alphonsus entitled it: 'A method of conversing continually and lovingly with God.' Let's take a look at some of Alphonsus' reflections...

When you behold beautiful scenes in the country or along the sea coast, or when you look at flowers or fruit, and are pleased by the sight or the perfume, say: For me God has created these lovely things in this world, that I may love Him. What delights has He not prepared for me in heaven?



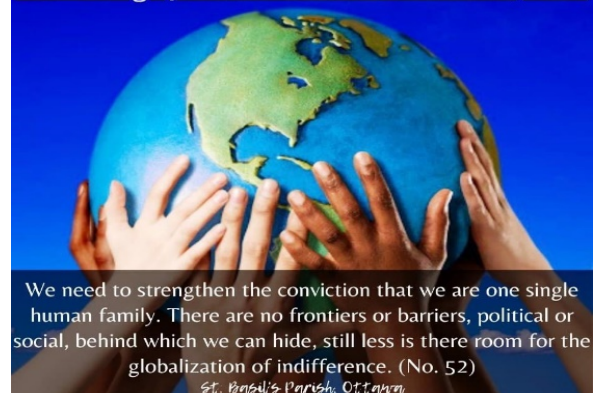
When you see rivers or streams, reflect that as their waters run towards the sea, and never remain still, so ought you ever tend towards God, who is your only good. When you happen to be in some vehicle drawn by horses' say: 'See what labour these innocent animals go through for my service; and how much pains do I myself take in order to serve and please my God?

Year-Long Quotations from *Laudato Si'*, # 97



Seeing fair plains and beautiful hills, St. Teresa used to say that they reproached her with her ingratitude to God. The Abbot de Rance, founder of La Trappe, declared that the beauty of creation around him obliged him to love God. St. Augustine had the same thought: "The heavens and the earth and all Your works cry out to me to love You."

Year-Long Quotations from *Laudato Si'*, # 91



When you see a little dog, which for a miserable morsel of bread is faithful to its master, reflect how much greater reason you have to be faithful to God, who has created and preserved you, and heaps upon you so many blessings. When you hear the birds sing, say: 'Hearken, O my soul, to the praise which these little creatures are giving to their Creator; and what are you doing? Then do you also praise him with acts of love.

THE PIM QUESTIONNAIRE

In upcoming issues of *Together for Mission*, members of our Redemptorist Family will be sharing their responses to some thought-provoking questions. This month, Anne Walsh, a Lay Missionary of the Most Holy Redeemer, Director of PIM for the Redemptorist Conference of North America, and chair of the General Commission for Partnership in Mission, from St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador shares her responses to the questions. Here's Anne...



My eight sisters and brothers at my niece's wedding.

1. *What is your idea of perfect happiness?*

My idea of perfect happiness is a gathering with a group of family or friends around a dinner table, with lots of good food and wine, and lots of laughter, as stories are told and songs are sung.

2. *When and where were you happiest?*

That's a really hard question for me to answer; there have been so many places and times in my life when I have been very happy, and I'm generally a very happy person. I guess I go back to the years when I was Coordinator of Catechesis for the Diocese of Grand Falls, in central Newfoundland; it is a very rural diocese, with many tiny, isolated communities, some of them on islands. I loved that ministry, and the people among whom I worked remain very dear to me.

3. *Which historical figure do you most identify with?*

That's a hard question! I identify a lot with Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy. I love her determination, her drive, and her courage. I admire her vision, and her willingness to trust God completely. Her dedication to the poor, and her certitude that if we educate women, all of society benefits. And her sense of humour is remarkable. I love it. She could laugh at the situations in which she and her sisters found themselves, and in doing so, lift everyone's spirits; but most of all, she could laugh at herself. Her *Suscipe* is a prayer that I have committed to memory and say and sing often. I see myself in many of her traits. I'd like to be half the person she was.

4. *Which figure in Redemptorist history do you most admire? Why?*

I admire so many, for different reasons. I can't pick one, but can I pick two? Then, I'd have to pick St. Alphonsus and Blessed Gennaro Sarnelli. Both had vision and drive, and a real, life-changing love for the most abandoned. But I really admire their friendship. They changed each other, for the better, I think, and their friendship was a dynamic force that profoundly affected the Congregation in its founding years. You can capture some of the power of that friendship when you read Alphonsus' biography of Sarnelli. Friends should have that capacity to affect each other for the good, I think. We all need friends like that; or, at least, I do!



5. *Which living person do you most admire?*

Oh! There are so many!

6. *What trait or quality do you most admire in others?*

I admire most those people who can really listen and draw others out. You know- the kind of person who can make the other person feel like the most important person in the world, or in the room. I admire that ability to put one's self aside and focus on drawing the best out of the other or out of the situation.

7. *What trait or quality do you most admire in St. Alphonsus?*

I think it would have to be his willingness to be converted again and again and again, to really, with his whole life, be open to the fullness of life that God had in store for him. And that phrase that was so dear to Alphonsus- uniformity with the will of God. I love that. So much more dynamic and open than "conformity."



8. What place have you not yet visited that you would most like to visit?

I'm not one of those people who has a "bucket list." I prefer to seize opportunities as they present themselves, and soak in all that I can. I would love to visit Iona, St. Columba's monastic island off the coast of Scotland. That's been a bit of a dream for a long time. It kind of calls to me.

9. What trait do you most admire in yourself?

Patience... or maybe perseverance... or a kind of combination of the two. I rarely lose patience, especially with other people. And I firmly believe that there's no "one way" to do anything, but that, together, we'll find a way that's better than what anyone could come up with on our own.

10. Who are your favourite composers or musicians?

Bach. I love Baroque music, particularly organ music and a lot of my musical training was spent sight-singing Bach chorales in four-part harmony. I love the complexity of Baroque counterpoint. But for modern music, give me a good anthem from the rock group Queen any day; there's one for every mood. And, if anyone has any influence, I'd give my right arm to meet Brian May!

11. Which talent would you most like to have?

I can play the piano a little, but I would love to be good at it.

12. What is your favorite thing to do on a rainy afternoon?

Definitely to curl up on the couch near a window, with a good book, listening to the rain. In Newfoundland, the rain rarely falls straight down! And I love to hear the rain on the window. I'd like to be able to listen to music and read, but I can't!



In 2016 I led a pilgrimage to a site sacred to all Newfoundlanders: Beaumont Hamel, in France.



The General Commission for PIM, hard at work- and also thoroughly enjoying one another!

13. What hopes or possibilities excite you about partnership in mission?

For me, from the day in 1992 that I met the then-Superior-General, Fr. Juan Lasso de la Vega, CSsR, it's always been that vision of a great Redemptorist Family, comprised of professed Redemptorists and lay partners in mission, galvanized for mission, sharing our gifts, talents, time and skills. There wouldn't be anything we couldn't do together for the most abandoned! There is such a sense of wonder that arises within me as I contemplate that vision. I think that's actually what I've given my life to for the last twenty-eight years. I can't think of anything more worthwhile.

14. Who are your favourite writers?

Peter Beresford Ellis; I love the "Sister Fidelma" series. Trudy Morgan-Cole, a Newfoundland writer. Seamus Heaney, the Irish poet, and Jessica Powers, the American Carmelite poet.

15. Who is your favorite hero or heroine of fiction? Why?

Anne of Green Gables, a heroine dear to many Canadian girls. I always loved her adventurous spirit and her imagination; reading her gave me permission to dream, and to indulge in whimsy (though I didn't really need a lot of prompting!).

16. Who are your heroes in real life?

My grandfather was a real hero to me; he was patient, a great storyteller, and always treated me with such dignity. Fr Ray Corriveau, who was the Redemptorist Provincial for much of my early involvement, was a profound influence; he never said "no" to a good idea, and had an almost childlike sense of wonder.



A PRAYER IN UNION WITH CREATION FROM POPE FRANCIS

Father, we praise you with all your creatures.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence and your tender love. Praise be to you!

Son of God, Jesus, through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother, you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light you guide this world towards the Father's love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts and you inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!

Triune Lord, wondrous community of infinite love,
teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of the universe,
for all things speak of you.

Awaken our praise and thankfulness
for every being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to everything that is.

God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.

The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future,
for the coming of your Kingdom
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen.

