



INTERNATIONAL FRANCISCAN CONFERENCE OF THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF THE THIRD ORDER REGULAR

Announcement – IFC-TOR website

Happy Birthday Laudato Si

This month marks the first anniversary of the publication of Pope Francis' Encyclical on Care for our Common Home, with its incipit taken from St. Francis of Assisi's Canticle of the Creatures. The Encyclical's first announcement generated much excitement, and stirred up curiosity. Its release was met with acclaim and skepticism. Believers and non-believers alike weighed in with their comments; it encountered very little apathy.

One year from the publication of Laudato Si', where do we stand? Many people have discussed it, some of them having even read it first. There have been study guides published, including one prepared by the Interfranciscan Commission for Justice and Peace (Romans VI), which can be found on the internet in 8 languages at francis35.org. The Global Catholic Climate Movement is calling for a Laudato Si' week (12-19 June - <http://laudatosiweek.org/index.php/events/>) to generate again the interest and enthusiasm which heralded its release.

As the anniversary approaches (24 June) we ask the Franciscan family throughout the world to commit themselves anew to the lifestyle change that is necessary to move from thought to action and to take concrete measures to care for our common home. Keeping in mind the three focus areas agreed upon at Rio +20, we encourage one and all to make the necessary life-style changes, to take a hard look at one's own economic choices and their nation's economy, and to focus on the effects of extraction industries on the life and human rights of the poor. In all these ways, we can help our "poor" sister, Mother Earth.

The Interfranciscan Commission of JPIC

The Romans VI