

Prot: SG/2020/62

To: Caritas Presidents
Caritas Secretary Generals
Caritas Regional Coordinators

Object: Laudato Si' Week (16-24 May 2020)

Vatican City, 5th May 2020

Dear colleagues and friends,

In March, as many of you will know, Pope Francis delivered an iconic Urbi et Orbi prayer from an empty yet symbolically meditative St Peter's Square. As he likened the current global pandemic to a storm laying bare illusions that people can be self-sufficient, he called on us to examine whether we are truly listening to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet.¹

He then went on to encourage us to seize this time of trial as a time of choosing. In these highly unsettling times, especially for the poorest and the most marginalised, we are called to stand for hope and take care to sow a shared responsibility for our common home and for the lives of our sisters and brothers who are hardest hit.

In the light of the current global health concerns, we believe it is even more so important to gain momentum ahead of the Laudato Si' Week scheduled from 16th to 24th May 2020. Our plans to share and acknowledge Caritas' manifold ways of living out Laudato Si' in its work, under the guidance of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, shall continue unchanged.

As mentioned in our previous letter, on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si', the following set of awareness-raising resources is going to be rolled out:

- A dedicated baobab folder with good practices showing how Caritas member organisations translate the spiritual and socio-ecological implications of Laudato Si' into practical plans;
- A pastoral reflection informed by Caritas' good practices and drawn on members' hands-on experience and expertise in the field of integral ecology and ecological conversion;
- Dedicated webpages on Laudato Si', housed in caritas.org, showing Caritas' action towards

¹ Source: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-03/urbi-et-orbi-pope-coronavirus-prayer-blessing.html>

a more sustainable planet and linked to the official Laudato Si' Week website.

While all our resources are in English, French and Spanish, the official Laudato Si' Week website offers, among other things, tailored social media materials in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, German and Polish, including a promotional video with Pope Francis. We would like to invite you to share these already within your respective organisations so we all familiarise ourselves with the content available here <https://laudatosiweek.org/>

Guidance as to how and when to use the aforementioned resources is provided on the new CI webpages. I am extremely glad to know that a number of Caritas member organisations have already signed up to engage with their communities. My most sincere hope is that more and more organisations can carve out time and space for reflection and action over the next few months.

I would like to thank you in advance for acknowledging receipt of this reminder. In addition, if you have any queries or updates that you wish to share about your work, please do not hesitate to make contact with Alfonso Apicella, CI's Global Campaigns Manager, at apicella@caritas.va.

Let us pray to God that He may turn to the good everything that is happening to our human family, with the help of our unstinting dedication to making our preferential option for the poor second to none. May our Lord Jesus Christ bring serenity into all our storms. May our Holy mother Mary be with us.

With all good wishes and God's abundant blessings,



Aloysius John
Secretary General
Caritas Internationalis