



Contemplative Reflection for the Month of April Seventh Goal on the Action Platform: Community Engagement & Participation

Community resilience and empowerment envisage a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels. Actions could include promoting advocacy and developing people’s campaigns, encouraging rootedness and a sense of belonging in local communities and neighborhood ecosystems.

James 2:14-17 What good is it if someone says he has faith but does not have works? . . . If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and you say, “Go in peace, keep warm and eat well but do nothing to help them, what good is that?” So also, faith, if it does not have good works, is dead.

Call to Contemplation

Leader: Resilience and empowerment are gifts of the Spirit that emerge from a gathering of minds and hearts centered on Christ and walking a journey of engagement and participation that recognizes the interconnectedness of all creation.

Response: Let us embrace a “culture of care” that advocates for our earth and our poor, recognizing we live in a common home that God has entrusted to us.

Music Video: “Love Song to the Earth,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fig4Wx0IDqE>

Reflection: (an excerpt from “The goals of the Laudato Sí action Plan are fulfilled in ”community engagement and participatory action” written by Joseph Nangle, OFM)

This seventh goal is especially relevant and necessary for rank-and-file U.S. Catholics. By and large the spirituality they/we have slipped into for the last several decades has been domesticating, of a vanilla color, passive. Despite our Church’s vigorous Catholic Social Teaching we have mostly heard a spirituality based on what is called the “prosperity Gospel”. It defines the practice of our faith as a sort of magic wand that is waved over our lives to secure our heart’s greatest desires in life: health, wealth, victory, feel-goodism. . .

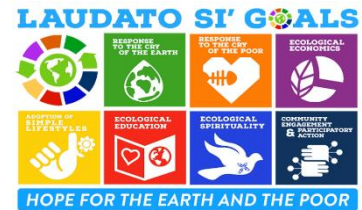
What then to do? In the Pope’s reflection, “Let us Dream,” he lays out for us a blueprint of “engagement and participatory action. . .” Pope Francis tells us to transcend our own enclosed world. “Let yourself be pulled along, shaken up and challenged . . . And then, act: call up, go visit, offer your service. Even say you don’t have a clue about what they(certain organizations) do, but maybe you can help.

<https://paxchristiusa.org/2021/05/31/the-goals-of-the-laudato-si-action-plan-are-fulfilled-in-community-engagement-and-participatory-action/>

Considerations:

- In what way were you challenged by Father Nangle’s words?
- How is Pope Francis challenging each of us in the 7th Goal of Laudato Sí?
- Did the “52 Ways to Care for Creation” invite you to further study and reflection on this topic? Please comment.

APRIL'S LAUDATO SÍ SHARING



Have you ever been watching a sports event, when out of nowhere a giant wave of people, standing with arms raised, moves around the stadium or sports venue?

We call this phenomenon a “Wave.” It begins at one location, then catches on until everyone is involved in it. When Pope Francis published *Laudato Sí* in 2015, creating a “global wave” was his intent. He hoped that what he had initiated to address climate change in the far regions of the earth would catch on and spread like wildfire across the globe. Using the concept of “synodal journey,” Pope Francis invites every person of good faith to join in and to work to save our planet Earth from ourselves, and for future generations.

The Global Catholic Climate Movement was the first organization to form after *Laudato Sí*. Its goal was to create Laudato Sí Animators who would spread the message of *Laudato Sí* worldwide. This organization is still going strong. It has a new name: Laudato Sí Movement.

The Laudato Sí Movement is a perfect example of what can happen with “community engagement and participatory action.” Below you will find the link to: “52 Ways to Care for Creation.” Spend some time with this space, recognizing the worldwide effect Laudato Sí has already created. Then “Catch the Wave” and “Come aboard!”

These are some of the 52 ways to care for creation:

1. Read or re-read *Laudato Sí*.
2. Save Paper
3. Clean with biodegradable products.
4. Buy only the clothes you need.
5. Carpool
6. Try taking a shower as long as it takes your favorite song to play.
7. Save electricity.
8. Appreciate good civil and public officials.
9. Unplug unused electrical appliances at night.
10. Reduce plastic waste.

52 ways to care for creation

<https://laudatosimovement.org/news/52-ways-to-care-for-creation-en-news/>

This is a part of what one of the Sisters on our committee shared with us and I would like to share it with you: **I must believe that the smallest steps that I take to conserve energy, to save water, to save the forests to help somebody, somewhere... are important . . . I MUST BELIEVE . . . then I will make the sacrifices small or large, to save our planet.**

Since this is the last of the seven goals for Laudato Sí, please enjoy the following Rap. It is called: “Laudato Sí Revolution.” Watch as much of it as you like.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dejPXwK9YnM>