



## 'Doing Our Part to Care for the Earth' Declaration

In his Encyclical *Laudato Si*, **Pope Francis** calls us to an *Ecological Conversion*.

"Your unique culture, experience, involvements, and talents are needed on our journey towards greater love for our Creator, each other, and the home we share", said the Pope (LS 14).

He encourages us not to stay aside but to act, together with others, saying:

- When we give in to indifference, we block the working of God's Spirit, who always wants to give us new possibilities.
- When people remember their roots, they regain their ability to hope and change.
- Acting starts with the realisation that you are not alone but that you are part of a greater whole. When you discover that, you regain your ability to hope and change.
- Let us bring the whole human family together... for we know that things can change (LS 13). Local individuals and groups can make a real difference (LS 179).
- When we respond to the call of *Laudato Si*, with profound care for each other, our Creator, and all Creation, we are building a better future together. To make change happen, we need to talk and raise awareness about *Laudato Si* in meetings and liturgies.
- The encyclical letter *Laudato Si* offers us a clear road map for learning how to live the hope expressed in Is 43,19: "Behold I am doing a new thing: now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert".
- In his encyclical letter *Spe Salvi*, Pope Benedict XVI wrote: "The Christian message was not only 'informative' but 'performative'. That means: the Gospel is not merely a communication of things that can be known – it is one that makes things happen and is life-changing. The dark door of time, of the future, has been thrown open. The one who has hope lives differently" (SS. 2).
- If our community involvement and participatory action teach us to "discover the worth of everything, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature" (LS 246), then our struggle for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC), however simple, will bear fruit in the right time.
- "You are called to care for creation not only as responsible citizens but also as followers of Christ!" Pope Francis.

As members and friends of the Chevalier Family, we don't want to stay behind. We are not alone. Within the Church, we are part of a religious family founded by Father Jules Chevalier MSC, who, in his time, already combatted indifference. He knew that fear paralyses while love conquers all. Therefore, he gave us our motto:

*May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be everywhere loved.*

As an International Family, we realise that:

- World solidarity is the radical alternative to the globalisation of self-interest and indifference.
- Our choices show where our heart lies and that we, who live the Spirituality of the Heart, are called to adopt an attitude of love and care for Creation.
- The abstract disables people, while the concrete opens new possibilities.

Therefore, as members of the Chevalier Family, I/we make the following concrete promises and commit to twice a year conducting a self-evaluation of our progress on the promises and making new resolutions.

Name:

---

Place:

---

Country:

---

Email:

---

Signature:

---

Date:

---

Send your signed declaration to the relevant contact below:

MSC Sisters: The JPIC Promoter of your Unit.

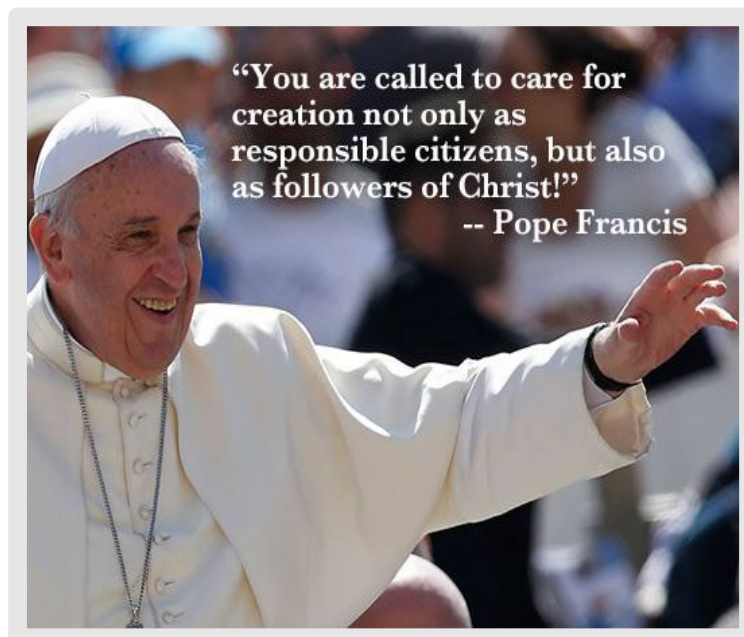
FDNSC/OLSH Sisters: [genolsh@gmail.com](mailto:genolsh@gmail.com)

MSC: [secgen@msc-chevalier.org](mailto:secgen@msc-chevalier.org)

Laity of the Chevalier Family: [alisonmckenzie@chevaliercentre.org](mailto:alisonmckenzie@chevaliercentre.org)

Or [dmsdoris@gmail.com](mailto:dmsdoris@gmail.com)

Or [rit.cleuren@hotmail.com](mailto:rit.cleuren@hotmail.com)





## Response to the Cry of the Earth

*(Tick the items you can promise to do during the coming year)*

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To choose local or indigenous plants and shrubs to use in our gardens and on our properties.                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To promote biodiversity by planting or sowing a variety of flowers to attract insects, such as butterflies, bumblebees, and bees. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To avoid the use of chemical herbicides and insecticides.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To pay attention to healthy soil and to use the principles of agroecology while producing our food.                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To protect waterways and land by ensuring sensible fertiliser use.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To replace or decrease the use of fossil fuels with clean, renewable energy (e.g., using solar panels).                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other:  |



## Response to the Cry of the Poor

*(Tick the items you can promise to do during the coming year)*

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To ensure access to clean water for everybody and to train community members in hygiene practices.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To combat stereotyping of migrants and refugees by promoting a culture of openness and encounter.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To promote and protect Indigenous leadership by ensuring Indigenous communities have the rights to their land and by elevating Indigenous leadership.                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To use our media channels to lobby leaders for the defence of the human rights of marginalised groups.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To grow in solidarity with vulnerable people by doing an audit of community challenges, delivering programs to address basic needs, and delivering programs to address failed systems. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To join movements and collaborate with networks to address the root causes of poverty (advocacy).  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other:   |



## Ecological Economics

*(Tick the items you can promise to do during the coming year)*

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To buy food from local farmers (short chain) and to opt for (organic) seasonal products from our own country.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To support the local economy and preferably to buy the products produced in our neighbourhood.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To choose Fair Trade products for coffee, tea, chocolate and bananas.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To make a personal and public commitment not to use brands we know are exploiting people, land, children, and the environment.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To ensure financial investments are ethical and sustainable by divesting from fossil fuels, investing in socially responsible enterprises, and choosing ethical banking and insurance companies. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other:   |



## Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

*(Tick the items you can promise to do during the coming year)*

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To consume less, thus obliging manufacturers to produce less.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To choose clothing made of materials that are long-lasting, like cotton.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To not leave on unnecessary lights (inside or outside) and turn off the lights when we leave a room.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To not charge our mobile phones longer than necessary.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To unplug the electrical appliances that have a standby function after use to avoid standby consumption.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To regularly check for leaking taps, showerheads, and toilets, and to let the necessary repairs be done as soon as possible.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To not use several cars for trips and excursions with a larger group, but to rent a bus and encourage the use of public transport.                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To ban single-use plastics, to avoid plastic bags and other packaging waste when purchasing, and not to use disposable cups, plates, or cutlery.                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To avoid buying over-packaged materials of food.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To reduce food waste by avoiding buying more food than needed, using up all the food purchased before buying more, storing food correctly, and using up any leftovers. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other:   |



## Ecological Education

(Tick the items you can promise to do during the coming year)

<input type="checkbox"/>	To follow in the news (papers, television, radio) what is said about environmental issues.
<input type="checkbox"/>	To foster ecological conversion by changing our attitude, heart, and mind and deciding to do things differently, out of freedom and not out of duty.
<input type="checkbox"/>	To develop <i>Laudato Si</i> learning opportunities by including <i>Laudato Si</i> in our formation plans and ensuring that community members are familiar with the local ecosystem, the science and social dimensions of the ecological crisis, and ecological virtues.
<input type="checkbox"/>	To ensure education is community-led by creating ways for educators to undergo ecological conversions, creating opportunities for youth-led events, and developing mechanisms to publicly recognise young people for their leadership.
<input type="checkbox"/>	To encourage community reflection on <i>Laudato Si</i> themes by having the community leader or community members speak about them, including them in the celebration of liturgical moments, and making study and prayer guides available.
<input type="checkbox"/>	To weave <i>Laudato Si</i> themes into the community's communications by regularly highlighting them in newsletters/bulletins and on social media and by encouraging community members to work on the <i>Laudato Si</i> goals.
<input type="checkbox"/>	To deliver equitable access to education by ensuring under-represented groups are educated, sharing education programs with a wide variety of people, offering culturally appropriate and/or alternative forms of education, and ensuring that education promotes human rights and dignity.
<input type="checkbox"/>	To teach toddlers in kindergarten how to avoid pollution (disposal of paper, plastics, etc.) and to teach pupils and students the need for gratitude and responsibility for the environment around them.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:



## Ecological Spirituality

(Tick the items you can promise to do during the coming year)

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To speak in our liturgy regularly of God as our Creator, the one who made all of Creation; to praise and thank God for nature, creatures and the world God made; to ask for forgiveness for times when we harm God's gift of Creation and to pray for the healing of our environment. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To organise outdoor celebrations like a cemetery Mass, a Mass at a Holy Well, local pilgrim walks or stations of the cross.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To use natural materials within worship.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To celebrate the Season of Creation.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To continue to study <i>Fratelli Tutti</i> and <i>Laudato Si</i> and their connection with our own <i>Spirituality of the Heart</i> .   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To take part in the First Friday action of the Chevalier Family to express solidarity and grow in awareness through prayer and action.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other:  |





## Community Engagement and Participatory Action

*(Tick the items you can promise to do during the coming year)*

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To share our experience with the Chevalier Family once a year in a short report to be published in our JPIC Bulletin.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To learn to know the organisations in our neighbourhood and what they are doing, and to keep in touch with them.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To participate in campaigns and initiatives for the environment.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To advise our town or city council on sustainable initiatives they can take (e.g., the layout of the streets, flower campaigns, traffic safety and making the neighbourhood a low-traffic area, public greenery, the use of the square, the establishment of a Neighbourhood Point). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other:   |



## Sustainability Initiatives

*(Tick the items you can promise to do during the coming year)*

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To collect rainwater to use as drinking water for the chickens, cleaning, watering the plants (inside and outside), and flushing the toilet. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To use recycled paper and envelopes, to use paper sparingly, and to reuse scrap paper (e.g., by making notebooks).                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To give away the things no longer needed instead of throwing them in the waste bin.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To use second-hand articles.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To compost leftover food and thus turn food waste into energy for plants.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To recycle items (e.g., beverage bottles, paper, ink cartridges).  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | To avoid, as much as possible, non-recyclable products.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other:   |