Recognizing that life as we know it has changed significantly in the last months, we still join the world in commemorating the 5th Anniversary of Pope Francis’ first encyclical, Laudato Si’, with a special week, May 16-24. The encyclical, on ecology and climate change, is an open appeal for dialogue and conversation about the future of our common home—a home we all share, regardless of faith or ideology. This reflection is an invitation for you to see and experience God in new ways while being attentive to your own context and lived experiences. Indeed, in giving Francis’ letter a few minutes of our attention during this global pandemic, we gain new perspective to how our work and lifestyles fit within a much larger ecology.

A NEW DIALOGUE

According to Christian theology, God created the world and entrusted it to us as a gift that we are responsible for protecting. This includes us. We are, after all, part of creation. However, Pope Francis reminds us that the voice that initiates this dialogue is, in fact, the earth itself. The earth cries out today because of our failures.

Take a moment and consider how you are personally addressed by the world around you. So many voices clamor for our attention – how do you make sense of it? What do you hear? Can you hear the cry of the earth? Have you heard it differently in this time of distancing and isolation?

Pope Francis insists that our contemporary ecological crisis is a summons to a profound interior conversion so that we might renew our responsibility to care for ourselves and for each other within the world that is our common home.

Let us pray the Prayer for Laudato Si’ Week:

Creator, Redeemer, Holy Spirit,
thank you for the gift of Laudato Si’, which teaches us
that “The Creator does not abandon us;
he never forsakes his loving plan
or repents of having created us.
Humanity still has the ability to work together
in building our common home.”
Creator, you give us life.
Help us to honor you
as we care for your precious creation.
Redeemer, you give us hope.
Help us see new ways of living
as we turn from the path of destruction.
Holy Spirit, you give us unity.
Help us find strength in the love between us
as we seek healing for the Earth.
Amen.