



LAUDATO SI'
Action Platform



Transitioning to Integral Ecology

Establishing a baseline via a *Laudato Si'* Goals Communal Reflective Process

Contemplative Reflection Instructions for SSND Baseline Survey

We encourage you to embrace a contemplative approach to taking the SSND Baseline Survey. Before you begin the survey, take time for reflection.

- Begin with a short prayer. We recommend *Oh Holy Spirit* from Trust and Dare, 3 June, M. Theresa # 29 or anything of your choosing.
- Read the first *Laudato Si'* goal (found on the following pages) and its basic description. Take time to ponder the challenges that underlie this goal.
- Now think about ways you have responded to this goal in the last few years. (Take your time, for you will be asked to share about this in the survey.)
- Choose one or more of the references from sacred scripture, *Laudato Si'*, or SSND documents (found on the following pages) and consider how this goal relates to who we are and what we are called to do.
- Then move on to the next goal and repeat the reflection process.
- When you are ready, click the link to take the survey.
- Once you have completed the survey, we invite you to conclude with prayer - *Becoming a Laudato Si' Congregation* (provided) or another prayer of your choice.
- **Please be sure to complete the survey by October 4.** If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Arlene Flaherty (aflaherty@amssnd.org) or Tim Dewane (tdewane@ssndcp.org).



Laudato Si' Goal #1 – Cry of the Earth

Refers to the ecological and environmental challenges we are facing these days - such as climate change, pollution, acidification of the oceans, massive destruction of forests and wetlands, and the elimination of many, many species.

Choose one or more of the references from sacred scripture, Laudato Si', or SSND documents below and consider how this goal relates to who we are and what we are called to do.

The earth mourns and fades, the world languishes and fades; both heaven and earth languish. The earth is polluted because of its inhabitants, for they have transgressed laws, violated statutes, broken the ancient covenant. (**Isiah 24: 4-5**)

I brought you into a plentiful land to enjoy its fruits and its good things. But when you came in, you defiled my land and made my heritage an abomination (**Jeremiah 2,7**)

The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth. In many parts of the planet, the elderly lament that once beautiful landscapes are now covered with rubbish (**LS 21**)

There is an urgent need to develop policies so that, in the next few years, the emission of carbon dioxide and other highly polluting gases can be drastically reduced, for example, substituting for fossil fuels and developing sources of renewable energy (**LS 26**)

We express our spirit of poverty by holding all things in common, living simply, sharing materially and spiritually, receiving gratefully and reverencing created things. We regard all as gift and ourselves as stewards of whatever is entrusted to us. (**YAS C 16**)

Because the earth and its resources are God's gift to all humanity, we are reverent, just, and sparing in our use of created things, concerned for the needs of present and future generations. (**YAS GD 19**)



Laudato Si' Goal #2 – Cry of the Poor

Refers to the persons who are poor and others who suffer or are disadvantaged because their human rights and/or dignity are not respected. Their situation is often exacerbated by the impacts of pollution and the deterioration of the environment.

Choose one or more of the references from sacred scripture, Laudato Si', or SSND documents below and consider how this goal relates to who we are and what we are called to do.

Whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God. (**Proverbs 14:31**)

Whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. (**Mtt 25:40**)

Both everyday experience and scientific research show that the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest (**LS 48**)

Generally speaking, there is little clear awareness of problems which especially affect the excluded people. Yet they are the majority of the planet's population, billions of people (**LS 49**)

As the desire of Jesus that all be one becomes more fully our own, our striving for unity embraces all humanity and the whole of creation. (**YAS C 9**)

Making the concerns of the poor our own, we become painfully aware of the many who suffer privations stemming from the sinfulness of our world. In accord with church teaching and directives, we work actively, especially in our local situations, to eliminate the root causes of injustice in order to realize a world of peace, justice, and love. (YAS C 17)



Laudato Si' Goal #3 – Ecological Economics

Refers to the production and consumption of goods/food/services without destruction of the environment or exploitation of workers. Meeting the needs of the present without sacrificing the needs of future generations.

Choose one or more of the references from sacred scripture, Laudato Si', or SSND documents below and consider how this goal relates to who we are and what we are called to do.

The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you reside in my land as foreigners and strangers (**Leviticus 25, 23**)

Be sure you know the conditions of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds; for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations (**Proverbs 27, 23-24**)

We have not yet managed to adopt a circular model of production capable of preserving resources for present and future generations, while limiting as much as possible the use of non-renewable resources, moderating their consumption, maximizing their efficient use, reusing and recycling them (**LS 22**)

The principle of the maximization of profits, frequently isolated from other considerations, reflects a misunderstanding of the very concept of the economy (**LS 195**)

We strive to live simply, to value human labor rightly, and to respect the dignity of every person, witnessing that living these values is a possibility for humanity. (YAS C17)

Urged by the love of Christ and of our sisters and brothers, we work actively toward enhancing just structures that foster fullness of life and toward changing unjust structures that inhibit it. (**Shalom Document**)



Laudato Si' Goal #4 – Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles

Refers to personal and community purchasing and lifestyle choices that reduce one's negative impact on people and planet.

Choose one or more of the references from sacred scripture, Laudato Si', or SSND documents below and consider how this goal relates to who we are and what we are called to do.

A pretentious, showy life is an empty life; a plain and simple life is a full life (**Proverbs 13,7**)

Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions (**Lk 12,15**)

If we can overcome individualism, we will truly be able to develop a different lifestyle and bring about significant changes in society (**LS 208**)

There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions.... such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or car-pooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights **(LS 211)**

We cling to nothing but the Lord, who gifts us with peace and joy, enables us to be content with what we receive, and sets us free from the selfish desire to possess. **(YAS C 16)**

Our personal and communal life flows from, expresses, and deepens our commitment to Christ: we live simply. We reflect this simplicity especially in our convent homes, food, clothing, purchases, travel, and recreation. **(YAS GD 20)**



Laudato Si' Goal #5 – Ecological Education

Refers to the process of continuous learning about how nature functions; how all forms of life are connected; the ecological changes that are happening and how people can manage their behavior to promote sustainability.

Choose one or more of the references from sacred scripture, Laudato Si', or SSND documents below and consider how this goal relates to who we are and what we are called to do.

I will send you the seasonal rains. The land will then yield its crops, and the trees of the field will produce their fruit **(Leviticus 26, 4)**

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world **(Psalm 19,1-4)**

Ecological education can take place in a variety of settings: at school, in families, in the media, in catechesis and elsewhere. Good education plants seeds when we are young, and these continue to bear fruit throughout life. Here, though, I would stress the great importance of the family **(LS 213)**

It is my hope that our seminaries and houses of formation will provide an education in responsible simplicity of life, in grateful contemplation of God's world, and in concern for the needs of the poor and the protection of the environment **(LS 214)**

Like Mother Theresa, we educate with the conviction that the world can be changed through the transformation of persons. Thus, our ministry demands a Christian vision of what the human person is called to be and what the world is destined to become. **(YAS C 22)**

We risk innovative responses as educators in a rapidly changing world impacted by globalization and technology (YAS, Prologue; C 22-24, 26). **(Love Gives Everything)**



Laudato Si' Goal #6 – Ecological Spirituality

Refers to the experience of the spiritual connection between the divine, human beings, and all God's creation.

Choose one or more of the references from sacred scripture, Laudato Si', or SSND documents below and consider how this goal relates to who we are and what we are called to do.

The Lord's justice will dwell in the desert, his righteousness live in the fertile field (**Is 32,16**)

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? (**Ps 139,7**)

Christians have not always appropriated and developed the spiritual treasures bestowed by God upon the Church, where the life of the spirit is not dissociated from the body or from nature or from worldly realities, but lived in and with them, in communion with all that surrounds us (**LS 216**)

The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast. For this reason, the ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion (**LS 217**)

Each creature reflects something of God and has a message to convey to us...there is the recognition that God created the world, writing into it an order and a dynamism that human beings have no right to ignore (**LS 221**)

We are enabled to grow in communion with God and with one another and in acceptance of responsibility for the earth and its people. (**YAS C 25**)

We deepen our consciousness of who we are in relationship with the Triune God, one another, and God's amazing universe, particularly through theological reflection on the Trinity. (**Love Gives Everything**)



Laudato Si' Goal #7 – Community Engagement and Participatory Action

Refers to collaborative engagement and advocacy at the local, regional, national, and international levels to promote policies and practices that respect the dignity of life and care for our common home.

Choose one or more of the references from sacred scripture, Laudato Si', or SSND documents below and consider how this goal relates to who we are and what we are called to do.

For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them (**Mt 18, 20**)

If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together (**1 Cor 12, 26**)

A global consensus is essential for confronting the deeper problems, which cannot be resolved by unilateral actions on the part of individual countries (**LS 164**)

Social problems must be addressed by community networks and not simply by the sum of individual good deeds....The ecological conversion needed to bring about lasting change is also a community conversion. (**LS 219**)

In accord with church teaching and directives, we work actively, especially in our local situations, to eliminate the root causes of injustice in order to realize a world of peace, justice, and love. (**YAS C 17**)

As Shalom, we will think globally and act locally and globally. (**Shalom Document**)

Becoming a Laudato Si' Congregation

God, Creator of all life,
now, more than ever, help me to know
that all creation manifests something
of the mystery you are.

Open my eyes, mind, and heart
to the sacredness as well as the suffering of creation.

Open my ears, and enable me
to listen to the cry of Earth,
as well as the cries of persons who are poor.

Strengthen my resolve
to undergo an ecological conversion.
Animate my efforts to take concrete steps
to contribute to the healing of the planet
and the thriving of all beings.

In the spirit of You Are Sent,
may I grow in conscious awareness
that “because earth and its resources
are your gift to all humanity”,
I am called to be “reverent, just, and sparing
in my use of created things,
concerned for the needs of present
and future generations.” (YAS GD 19)

Amen.

*Advice - To compensate for the amount of paper used for printing the material for this process please consider planting a tree or give a donation to a tree planting project.

*Reflection materials and survey prepared by the Shalom Branch Representatives and
SSND Shalom International Office.*