

JPIC: Love the Lord, Love His Kingdom, Love the Earth



We of the Secular Franciscan Order in the Saint Francis Region have been offered a wonderful opportunity. I am so excited to share it with you, dear sisters and brothers. We have been invited to participate with the Franciscan friars of the Santa Barbara Province in living and leading Laudato Si in our part of the world. Please read on for a fuller explanation.

As we all know, Laudato Si is an encyclical from the Holy Father, Pope Francis, published in May 2015. The words “Laudato Si” come directly from our beloved Saint Francis and mean Praise Be to You, Lord. The encyclical calls all peoples of the world to care for our common home that is hurting. We are faced with unprecedented climate disruption, ever-enlarging numbers of people living in extreme poverty, many without food and water, and a need to gather as a human family to address these issues promptly before this beautiful world given to us by God is destroyed.

“The Saint Barbara Province of Franciscan Friars has created a Commission to guide participation in the Laudato Si’ Action Platform, the Catholic Church’s overall program to ‘journey towards sustainability in the holistic spirit of integral ecology.’ The Commission, named Laudato Si’ Spirit: Collaboration for Action in the West, has the responsibility for facilitating implementation of Laudato Si’ Action Plans in our entities. Laudato Si’ Spirit is a collaboration of Franciscans in the Western United States.” (From their website <https://laudatosispirit.org/>)

We have been invited to work with the Commission to carry this message into the world. We are honored. We began with a workshop at Mission San Luis Rey on October 8 and are now called to move forward.

So, sisters and brothers, let us join our Franciscan hearts and wills and move forward together. We are seeking one or two people from each of our 24 fraternities to commit to this project. You are invited now so you can be part of the planning process of how we will move forward together. I can promise you will never be asked to do anything that is outside of your Franciscan commitment to live the gospel according to our Rule of life. I cannot promise but can offer this opportunity for building Franciscan Joy together as we journey forward in 2023!

PLEASE NAME YOUR PERSON OR PERSONS AND SEND ME THE NAMES NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1, 2023.

I so look forward to working with all of you.

Peace and All Good, Patricia Grace, OFS JPIC Animator, St. Francis Region