

TOWARDS BUILDING ONE WORLD WITH A COMMON PLAN

The global experience of solidarity we are currently experiencing has given us the strength to survive the pandemic that is aggressively spreading in parts of the world. Knowing that we are not alone in dealing with the negative effects of COVID-19, gives us the perseverance to fight it. While it has caused our world to stop, it also allows us to assess what went wrong and the changes needed when we get back to our lives. Life as we have known it will not return to the way things were. Never have we had such awareness of the need to care for one another in our common home.

Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'* calls us to acknowledge that "interdependence obliges us to think of one world with a common plan. "(LS 164) We are at a new place and we need to seize the moment to help create our futures. We have painful experiences of death, loss of income, scarcity of food, and medical care. We have also seen the compassionate kindness of others reaching out in consolation, postponing payments for debt and rentals, sharing food with strangers. We have come together in prayer online and continue to communicate through the internet. Our heroes are the doctors and the medical staff that have risked their lives for the health of others, as cities acknowledge their heroic actions.

Despite the goodness that we do for each other during this pandemic, many still continue to struggle to survive without essential resources, necessary supportive relationships and services, whether they are affected by the pandemic or not. There is much to be done as we "hear the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth".

We are reminded of the impact when "Love overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world." (LS 231). As we begin to heal, let us be mindful of the importance of what we have become during this time and continue to seek guidance from the message of *Laudato Si'*. Let us begin to build such a common plan to make the world a better place by Sowing Hope for the Planet. Let us keep one another in our prayers for an openness to the workings of the Spirit in our lives and the changes that we need to make as we move forward.