

## Sustainability Level 5: Relationship with Creation

**"Our Precious Blood Spirituality challenges us to become instruments of reconciliation, justice and peace and to preserve the integrity of creation". Const. 507**

**"Praised be you, my Lord, through sister mother earth, who sustains us and governs us and who produces varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs". St. Francis**

In the Encyclical *Laudato si*, Pope Francis draws the attention of the Church – and each individual, to most urgent problems, related to the care for our common home and to the present and the future of people living in it.

The problems of the destruction of the natural environment are growing in severity and the consequences on the life of people are becoming dramatic.

It is necessary to have a broad vision of the causes, of the nature of the crisis and their various aspects. It is vital that scientists, sociologists, economists and politicians collaborate, as well as educators and formators of conscience because without a true/genuine conversion of our attitudes and our behaviour/conduct of everyday life the technical solutions will not result in saving our common home.

It is necessary to have a human ecology centered on the integral development of the human and claiming responsibility for the common good, consideration/regard and care for the creatures that God entrusted to us.

If we, as CPS sisters do really want to answer the challenge of number 507 of our Constitutions and Pope Francis, we have to

**first**, seek information on the following issues:

*Pollution and climate change;*

*The issue of water;*

*Loss of biodiversity*

*Decline in the quality of human life and the breakdown of society;*

*Global inequality;*

**second**, gain consciousness that the degradation of the integrity of creation is human-made;

**third**, understand what integral ecology means;

**fourth**, know about the responsibilities of experts, from scientists to politicians;

**fifth**, from the basis of the Bible and the reflections of the background issues, grow a basic consciousness which will allow us to develop new convictions, attitudes and lifestyles.

Pope Francis gives an example of the conviction that 'less is more' and remembers that a Christian spirituality suggests a growing soberness and the capacity to rejoice with little. As he is saying, know to savour the small things, thank God for the possibilities that life offers us, not clinging to what we own nor be saddened about what we don't have.

The ignorance of these issues, the indifference in relation to them or the passivity to respond adequately and courageously, are an obstacle to our ecologic conversion. If we, however, pursue the way indicated by God's Word, the Constitutions and the reflections of Pope Francis, we allow to emerge in all our relations with the world around us, all the consequences of our encounter with Jesus.

Then we will pursue the path of announcing the Good News of joy and liberation that Jesus entrusted to us. He gave us an example, to the point of shedding his blood as an evidence of love, to surrender to the Father, to live in mindfulness to our earth and to men and women in our world.

(Sr. Anna Vera Kittel, CPS)