

PILGRIMS OF HOPE –JUBILEE 2025

News Letter n.2

Commission Economy in service to Charism and Mission

Consecrated people on the journey to jubilee of Hope Care and the custody of Creation

Today, Pope Francis is inviting us to listen and respond to the cry of Creation. In his letter he appealed to us “I urgently appeal, then for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing and its human roots concern affect us all” (Laudato SI:14). This year when we will be celebrating the season of Creation from 1 September to 4 October, our theme is “to hope and act with creation” inspired by Romans 8:19-25.

We cannot deny the fact that recently we experience extreme weather phenomena, frequent periods of unusual heat, drought, excessive rain in other places which causes floods and other cries of protest on the part of the earth. Pope Francis believes that the signs of climate change are here and increasingly evident (celebration guide to hope and act with creation: 6). Also, The Lutheran World Federation affirmed that as churches in ongoing reformation, we are called to work for peace in the world between people, countries and with the whole of creation.

The major questions to us are:

- How can we take a deep breath and reconcile with the world that is our common home?
- How can we help our world to be more beautiful than now?
- As individuals, communities, how can we work concretely on our daily conversion?

Creation Care is a collective mandate and responsibility as Pope Francis stated that “Everyone’s talents and involvement are needed to redress the damage caused by human abuse of God’s Creation” (Laudato SI:14). We all need to

protect and renew what God has entrusted to us. Pope Francis continues to say, “we have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth, Gen. 2:7. Our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her water” (Laudato SI :7)

Let us look around in the world today, countries are in war, there is no peace in the families, in the Church, within the Congregations etc. All these calamities we experience, is a cry out, pleading that we take another course. We need a radical change. This resonates well with “Reducing vulnerability from Climate change:17” which states, in Lesotho “As evidence, perennial springs have run dry, previously robust rivers have been greatly diminished and many dams remain dry for most of the year. In addition, subsistence farming has declined due to droughts and in turn yields have declined... This leads to loss of livestock, poor harvests for farmers and significant amount of soil through wind erosion.”



Resources:

Laudato SI (2025) Encyclical Letter of the Holy Father Francis on Care for our Common Home. Libreria Editrice Vaticana:Paulines Publications Africa.

Tieho Mamasiane (2018) Reducing Vulnerability from Climate Change. Recent climate Trends in Lesotho:Minister of Education

Season of Creation 2014 Theme and symbol:Season of Creation Ecumenical Steering Committee Members.