

# Josephite **EARTH** Sustainability Charter



**Join us in prayer as we rejoice that on this 5th Anniversary of Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical, Laudato Si, we celebrate the online Launch of our Josephite Earth Sustainability Charter.**

As we stand at this critical moment of Earth's history, we recognise, that along with all members of the human community, we are invited to live in increasingly sustainable ways. All of us – members, associates and employees in Josephite ministries – are called to forms of sustainability which link with our faith tradition. Laudato Si situates our faith response and lived reality as being inseparable and integral.

The **Josephite Earth Sustainability Charter**, based on the Laudato Si framework, is a living document, encouraging all within the Josephite community towards increasingly sustainable practices. It has been developed with the support of the CLT by the Congregational Eco-Spirituality Team.

As part of Laudato Si Week, Josephite communities across the world are invited to share and celebrate the online launch of this important statement: the **Josephite Earth Sustainability Charter**. We invite you to participate in this launch through a reflective prayerful context, which includes extracts from the **Charter**.

*We are not faced with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather one complex crises which is both social and environmental.*

## **A PRAYER FOR EARTH** *Pope Francis*

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of those who are poor,

help us to rescue those abandoned and forgotten across Earth,

so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives,

that we may protect the world and not prey on it,

that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain

at the expense of those who are poor and Earth herself.

Teach us to discover the worth of each created being,

to be filled with awe and contemplation,

and to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature

as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.





# Towards Josephite Earth Sustainability

*(some extracts and reflections from the Charter)*

*We stand at a critical moment in Earth's History. As Josephite women and men we acknowledge our role in caring for Earth, Our Common Home, and our responsibilities for present and future generations.*

*Science, theology and indeed, the ancient knowledges of aboriginal peoples throughout the world, stress the interconnected nature of everything, of all. The policies of the Josephite Congregation and the culture and actions of its members, associates and employees have consequences for the environment and the quality of human life.*

*Recognising the complexities facing us, the principles of the Josephite Earth Sustainability Charter provide a hope-filled ethical framework and vision for Earth sustainability.*

*“Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live.”<sup>1</sup>*

*“Ko au te awa, ko te awa ko au” I am the river. The river is me.  
(Maori Proverb)*


*“I am the forest...” (John Seed)*

*As ethically responsible citizens we are challenged to consider environmental impacts and to make mindful choices regarding origins and lifecycle of the water, energy, food or products that we are using or considering purchasing.*

*“We know that technologies based on the use of highly polluting fossil fuels- especially coal, but also oil and, to a lesser degree, gas – needs to be progressively replaced without delay”. Pope Francis<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Laudato Si #139

<sup>2</sup> Laudato Si #165



**How might I/we be contributing to cycles of injustice toward Earth, peoples and all creation?**

**How do our Josephite daily actions contribute to caring for Earth?**

**AND SO WE PRAY** – in the words of Pope Francis – “that we may come to respect all of creation and care for it as a gift of God.”

- We give thanks First Nations peoples of our lands and pray that we may learn from them the sacredness of land and the interconnectedness of all of life. We know, Creator God, that you hear us.

**God, you hear our prayer.**

- As we realise more and more the enormity of our ecological crisis, we pray that all of us will respect creation and care for it as a gift of God. God, you hear us.

**God, you hear our prayer.**

- For those who are poor, who are most vulnerable at this time, that their rights may be recognised and respected. God, you hear us.

**God, you hear our prayer.**

- For the whole of life, including the life of generations to come, that the human family will take action to hasten the transition to a more sustainable Earth. God, you hear us.

**God, you hear our prayer.**

- For our Church, that it may raise its prophetic voice in view of the moral crisis of this time, and stress the urgency of ecological justice in communities throughout the world. God, you hear us.

**God, you hear our prayer.**

- For all nations in this time of Covid-19, that we will take action to protect and care for creation and all people, and set our lives on new and life-giving paths. God, you hear us.

**God, you hear our prayer.**

Creator God, you walk with us on our journey. Open us to see the revelation of your presence in all of creation that we may safeguard and protect the beauty of Earth. We ask this in the name of your Son, who taught us about the sacredness and interconnectedness of all of life, Jesus Christ. **AMEN**

*When you realise  
Heart and Earth  
are spelled with  
the same letters,  
it all starts to  
make sense.*



heart  
earth