



## INTRODUCTION

On 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023, on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron of ecology, Pope Francis released *Laudate Deum*, the apostolic exhortation that builds on the landmark encyclical letter *Laudato si'* of 2015. With the new exhortation, Pope Francis raises once again his prophetic voice for the care of our common home and one another, especially the most vulnerable in our midst. As the Pontiff points out “our responses have not been adequate” and “the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point.” (*Laudate Deum*, 2). Pope Francis reminds us that “what is being asked of us is nothing other than a certain responsibility for the legacy we will leave behind, once we pass from this world.” (*LD*, 18)

The recently concluded Climate Summit in Dubai (COP28) has painfully demonstrated that we continue to remain largely deaf to the growing “cry of the earth and the cry of the poor” (*Laudato si'*, 49). Time is running out. However, we are still to wake up to the gravity of the existential threat to life and civilization on this planet that we call “home”?

The unprecedented challenge facing the planet and people can only be addressed within the lens of an integral ecological vision that Pope Francis championed in *Laudato si'*. The rebuilding of *Our Common Home* and our common human and biotic family calls for an alliance of all members of our household cutting across of all segments of society. It was in the spirit of this prophetic mission that the Pontifical Universities and Atheneums in Rome came together soon after the publication of *Laudato si'* to initiate the Joint Diploma in Integral Ecology. On the seventh anniversary of this collective and fruitful effort, we are happy to announce the launch of the English edition of this initiative to be offered on-line, in partnership with many leading groups involved in the area of creation care.

## OBJECTIVES

- 1) To promote and spread the message of both *Laudato si'* and *Laudate Deum* and to initiate a sort of cultural revolution, creating ecological awareness among people.

- 2) To educate and encourage people to take some personal as well as common initiatives to care for *Our Common Home*.

## CONTENT AND MODALITY

The Course in Integral Ecology will consist of six modules of 90 minutes each to be held from January to June 2024 (on every third Thursday of the month from 13.30 to 15.00 hrs CEST/GMT+1), along with an international on-line conference on *Laudate Deum* that will be organized in May 2024. On-line enrolment for the course will open in December 2023, and on completing the programme attendees will be awarded a certificate of participation on request.

## COURSE ENROLLMENT

For on-line enrollment please go to:  
<https://immatricolazioni.unigre.it/>

## REQUIRED INFORMATION:

- 1) Identity Card/Passport (Pdf)
- 2) A short presentation (100 words) of the motive to pursue the Course (Pdf)
- 3) Enrollment and Course Fee consists of € 30. Payments can be made by bank transfer.

**N.B.** In case of any help needed, please contact:  
[jdei.english@unigre.it](mailto:jdei.english@unigre.it)

## PROGRAMME

The Course will be handled by an international faculty of renowned academics, leaders and activists in the area of creation care, drawn from the Pontifical Universities and Atheneums in Rome and from around the world.

### 25 January 2024: First Session

**“What is Happening to Our Common Home?”**

**Chair:** Prem Xalxo

*Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome*

**Resource Persons:**

- 1) **Susana R efega**, *Laudato Si' Movement*
- 2) **Mauricio Lopez**, *Ecclesial Conference of the Amazon*

- 3) **Rodne Galicha**, *Living Laudato Si' Philippines*
- 4) **Joshtrom Isaac Kureethadam**, *Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and Salesian Pontifical University, Rome*

### 15 February 2024: Second Session

**“The Gospel of Creation”**

**Chair:** Arturo Bellocq

*Pontifical Holy Cross University, Rome*

**Resource Persons:**

- 1) **Sheila Kinsey**, *Former Co-Secretary, Commission for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, USG/UISG, Rome*
- 2) **Erin Lothes**, *Director of the Laudato Si' Animators Programme*
- 3) **Angelito Andig Cortez**, *Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation - Order of the Friars Minor*
- 4) **Prem Xalxo**, *Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome*

### 07 March 2024: Workshop

**Documentary Film on Laudato Si': THE LETTER**

**Coordinators:**

**Erin Lothes – Cheryl Dugan – Magdalena Noszczyk – Cecilia Dell'Oglio**, *Laudato Si' Movement*

### 21 March 2024: Third Session

**“The Human Roots of the Crisis”**

**Chair:** Giulia Lombardi

*Pontifical Urban University, Rome*

**Resource Persons:**

- 1) **Dominique Lambert**, *Universit  de Namur, Belgium*
- 2) **Jacqui Remond**, *Australian Catholic University*
- 3) **Xavier Jeyaraj**, *Former Secretary, SJ Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat*
- 4) **Michael Terrien**, *Archdiocese of Chicago*

### 18 April 2024: Fourth Session

**“Integral Ecology”**

**Chair:** Inocent-M ria Vladimir Szaniszl 

*Pontifical Angelicum University, Rome*