# CELEBRATORY SCRIPT for the 10th Anniversary of LAUDATO SI'

Achievement







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# Celebrative Script for the 10th Anniversary of Laudato Si

# Creating and sustaining habits for the care of our Common Home

## I. Initial mystique

We invite the group to gather near a green or planted area. We begin with a moment of silence with their eyes closed. Then we invite everyone to take a short silent walk around the area to contemplate Creation. After a few minutes, we gather in a circle. In the center, we can place some Amazonian symbols, a cross, a Bible, and photos of Amazonian peoples and realities. We begin the meeting with the sign of the cross.

## II.Remembrance of life

Facilitator: We remember Pope Francis, his life and teachings, who through his witness taught us to love and respect life. From him we have learned that "for the Jewish-Christian tradition, saying 'creation' is more than saying nature, because it has to do with a plan of God's love where each creature has value and meaning. Nature is often understood as a system to be analyzed, understood, and managed, but creation can only be understood as a gift that emerges from the open hand of the Father of all, as a reality illuminated by love that calls us to a universal communion" (LS 76). Aware that life is a gift, we share what we have experienced on our initial journey, feelings and memories of this connection with nature.





#### III.Introducing the Theme

**Facilitator:** On this occasion, as we celebrate 10 years since the publication of the letter Laudato Si', we want to emphasize the need to create and sustain positive habits which confront the cultural and ecological crisis, based on the ideas of Pope Francis.



**Reader 1**: Since the market tends to create a compulsive consumerist mechanism to sell its products, people end up stuck in the vortex of unnecessary shopping and spending. Obsessive consumerism makes us all believe we are free as long as we have a supposed freedom to consume, when those who truly possess that freedom are those who make up the minority that holds economic and financial power.

**Reader 2:** The current world situation provokes a sense of instability and insecurity, which in turn fosters forms of collective selfishness. When people become self-consumed and isolate themselves within their own conscience, they increase their greed. The emptier a person's heart, the more they need things to buy, possess, and consume. Therefore, it seems impossible for anyone to accept that reality sets limits for them, nor does a true common good really exist on that horizon.



**Reader 3:** Let us not only think about the possibility of terrible climatic changes or major natural disasters, but also about catastrophes arising from social crises, because the obsession with a consumerist lifestyle, especially when only a few can sustain it, can only provoke violence and mutual destruction.

**Reader 1:** Human beings are capable of looking at themselves honestly, of bringing their own weariness to light, and of embarking on new paths toward true freedom. There are no systems that completely destroy openness to goodness, truth, and beauty, nor the capacity for reaction that God continues to inspire from the depths of human hearts. I ask every person in this world not to forget that dignity of theirs, which no one has the right to take away.

**Reader 2:** A change in lifestyles could exert healthy pressure on those with political, economic, and social power. This is what happens when consumer movements succeed in getting people to stop buying certain products and thus become effective in changing large companies' behavior, forcing them to consider environmental impact and production patterns. It's a fact that when society's habits affect corporate profits, they are pressured to produce differently



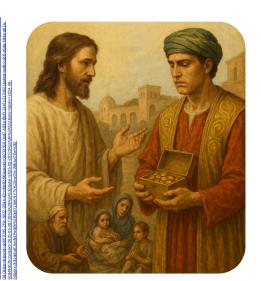


**Reader 3**: I dare to propose again that precious challenge: As never before in history, our common destiny calls us to seek a new beginning. May ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life; for the firm resolve to achieve sustainability; for the acceleration of the struggle for justice and peace; and for the joyful celebration of life.

**Reader I:** The basic attitude of self-transcendence, breaking away from isolated consciousness and selfishness, is the root that makes possible all care for others and the environment, and that gives rise to the moral reaction of considering the impact that each action and each personal decision has on oneself. When we are able to overcome individualism, a truly alternative lifestyle can be developed and a major change in society becomes possible. (LS 203-208)

Facilitator: After publishing Laudato Si', Pope Francis convened the Special Synod for the Amazon just two years later, on October 15, 2017. He sought to make this concern for the care of our Common Home concrete, especially in the Amazon, which he himself recognized as one of the "lungs of the planet teeming with biodiversity" (LS 38). Faithful to the teachings of the Church's Magisterium, we celebrate and make possible this care for creation in our territories.





#### **IV.Biblical inspiration**

Announcement of the Good News according to the community of Luke (18, 18-27)



#### V.Questions for dialogue/reflection



-In order to care for our Common Home, what do we believe we must do to obtain eternal life? -What habits should we get rid of to take care of our Common Home, and more specifically, the Amazon? -In Laudato Si', Pope Francis invites us to create new habits as a path to ecological conversion. If everyone were to commit to this profound conversion (internal and external), what would the Amazon of our dreams look like?

#### **VI.** Petitions

Our Father, source of the water of life, help us, through the power of your Word and the strength of the Amazonian rivers, to transform our existential deserts into springs of living water, serving the care of our Common Home. Let us pray to the Lord.

Come to us, vital dew.

Kind Father, true light, send your inexhaustible light so that, like the sun, it may reach every corner of our forests, it may illuminate our brothers and sisters in their commitment to the care and defense of the Amazon, its peoples, and cultures, recognizing that their small daily actions help save and heal our common home. Let us pray to the Lord. Come to us, shining light.

Father of goodness, as we discover the warmth of your love in each new dawn, move us with your grace to recognize our brothers and sisters in all the creatures with whom we live in the enormous diversity we find in the Amazon. Let us pray to the Lord.



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Come to us, beating heart of life.

#### (Open a space for spontaneous prayer requests)

#### **VII. Prayer**

Facilitator: At the end of this celebration, let us acknowledge that the Lord accompanies us, guards us, and illuminates us on this journey in which we recognize that we are part of creation, as well as its guardians. Let us ask Him to help us cultivate new habits and motivate many others to continue in this same direction. Let us pray together:

### Ecological Our Father (Laura Irena D'Angiola)

Our Father who art in the forest, at sea, in the desert and in the city.

Holy be your creation, brimming with development, strength and life.

Let your wisdom come to us, to protect and develop the beauty you have given us, which is in the flower and the rainbow, in the water, and on the fertile Mother Earth, in the warm breath of the sun. And in the cool darkness of rest.

Thy will be done, Lord, so that we may be human beings in your image and likeness, those of us who take up the challenge, to maintain the vital process of creation. Give us today the greenness of each day, in the meadow and on the mountain, in the garden and in the dying earth.

Forgive our irresponsibility, by not taking care of what you have given

us, like us, for love, we forgive the polluters. And we urge them vehemently to abandon their work of destruction.

And do not let us fall into desertification, that leads to death, that denies your work and annihilates life and free us from conformity, so that our lives may be transformed, in dynamic strength, that produces more life.

Amen.

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