



# MERCY EARTH CHALLENGE

## **Deepen our Response to *Laudato Si***

*The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. (Laudato Si #13)*

For the first six weeks of Mercy Earth Challenge, we invite you to deepen your understanding of and response to Pope Francis' groundbreaking encyclical *Laudato Si* as we near its five-year anniversary May 24th. We will offer you each week a quote from the text, a spiritual resource, an educational piece, and a call to action around one facet of the challenge to "hear the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor."

We will build on this foundation the rest of the year by considering specific actions we can take related to issues raised in the encyclical.

The pope's message of interconnectedness rings even more true today than it did when the encyclical was published. The covid-19 pandemic shows both that regions of the world are not isolated from one another and that some members of the human family are disproportionately impacted by such crises.

This week we invite you to:

- Enjoy a meditation on *Laudato Si* prepared by Mercy Sister Ana Siufi of Argentina in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

- [Learn more about](#) the concept of planetary health and how the loss of habitat and biodiversity may create conditions for new diseases, including covid-19 (article in English only)
- Action: [Participate in an online Earth Day](#) activity this week. There are many different types of events around the world and events in English and in Spanish.