

## **Laudato Si': a litany**

*This litany is inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si'. You may wish to adapt the final words of each line to 'join us' if your group has already read the encyclical.*

If you are asking questions such as: What is the purpose of my life in this world? Why am I here? What is the goal of my work and all my efforts, then read it.

If you want to slow down and look at reality in a different way, promote best practice, stimulate creative solutions and encourage group and individual initiatives, then read it.

If you think you can replace consumption with sacrifice, greed with generosity and wastefulness with sharing and learn to give, not just to give up, then read it.

If you feel that the deepest roots of our present failures are to do with the direction, goals, meaning and social implications of technological and economic growth, then read it.

If you believe that everything is interconnected and that our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God, then read it.

If you long to be liberated from fear, greed and compulsion, to be open to awe and wonder, and to join in building a common home, then read it.

If you can allow yourself to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor so that the suffering of the world becomes your own, then read it.

If you think that we were made for love and therefore that gestures of generosity, solidarity and care can well up within us, then read it.

If you long to be ever open to God's grace, to cultivate a spirit of patience, self-discipline and generosity so that you go out from yourself towards the other, then read it.

If you are prepared to examine your life-style, to rise above yourself, to choose what is good and to make a new start, then read it.

If you willing to be grateful and lovingly aware, and over time can cultivate sound virtues through little daily actions, then read it.

If you are open to a profound interior conversion, a change of heart, which rejects every form of self-centeredness and self-absorption, then read it.

If you have the potential to be attentive to the beauty all around you, see nature as a continuing revelation of the divine so that the soil, water, mountains, are like a caress of God, then read it.

If you have the capacity to be happy with little, are prepared to be humble and others can see how the effects of your encounter with Jesus Christ is evident in your relationship with the world, then read it.

Yes, read the encyclical if you think that all it takes is one good person to restore hope, that we can bring good out of the evil we have done, and that we are all called to live wisely, think deeply, love generously, and sing as we go.

*Susy Brouard/CAFOD*