

INFO SS.CC. SISTERS N°63 – JULY 22TH 2019

**OUR COMMITMENT CAN MAKE THE WORLD BETTER:
Take care of the common house (I)**



Dear Sisters,

Sacred Scripture clearly shows us the harmony of all Creation in the designs of God. The antiphon, “*and God saw that it was good*”, which is repeated, as the days go by, in the poem of Genesis (Gen 1), speaks of that harmonious land, of creatures in solidarity, of a world made with great care; a world that is the place of God’s manifestation, where He reveals His divinity, His greatness, His love and mercy... And this is how the Israelites understood it: in the prayer of the psalms, they praise God with the voice and strength of nature: *Praise him, heaven and earth, the seas and all that moves in them* (Ps 69:35). St. Paul will include it later in the plan of redemption carried out by Jesus Christ (Rom 8:19 ff.), expressing a solidarity in good and in evil, between human beings and Creation.

Today, many ecologists speak of the “planetary crisis” to accentuate the gravity of environmental problems. We are witnessing the ravages that global warming and climate change are causing in different corners of the earth. And we know that carelessness, irresponsibility, the idleness of many and the excessive ambition of some, have brought serious consequences to the ecosystem.

Perhaps the current problem of the environment is one of the issues that gathers more followers of different mentalities and beliefs. But this does not mean that it does not have detractors and that there are no people who are reluctant to believe in the human intervention of the greenhouse effect, global warming and climate change. Or, they do not care because their particular interests make them insensitive to this unfortunate reality. Experts try to predict what might happen if the situation is not stopped, and here and there are suggestions for behaviour that could prevent a catastrophe. We join in this, as we will read in the following pages.

In this month's INFO, we will be able to appreciate the sensitivity that is on the increase in our communities to cooperate in a small, daily, ongoing way. Because we are aware of the fatal consequences that may occur, the ecological question is one of the priorities of our mission at the moment. We must train ourselves and educate others, make specific gestures and change our habits of life and consumption, because we believe that there is a real threat to the planet.

Pope Francis took this problem very seriously in his apostolic exhortation *Laudato Si'*, and goes much further in his reflection. He invites us, in reality, to a conversion of habits and customs in order to experience an Integral Ecology. And he explains in number 139 that *“We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution demand an integral approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded and at the same time protecting nature.”* In taking care of our common home, as he calls the concern for the life of the planet, we need to consider the care of all, and especially of the most vulnerable.