

Ecological Conversion

Dear Sister and Brother

It is an exciting time we are just living in right now. The Holy Father is called Pope Francis. Connected with this name he carries a surprising message. He issued the encyclical LAUDATO SI some months ago. He traveled to US with the message to sensitize people for a better care for environment. He addressed the UN with emphatic words facing a full house of representatives. In November, he will address the Environmental Conference in Paris under similar guiding principles.



In November, he will visit us in Kenya to address Christians, members of other Religions, all citizens spending especially some time with the youth. Kenya has started to get ready for him and to receive him with fairness and with an open heart.

At the occasion of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi Br. Michael Perry OFM, the Minister General of the Friars Minor issued a circular calling for an **ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION** inspired by the message of Laudato Si.

Climate Change, increase of temperature, increase of sea-level, insecurity of rain-fall, floods and droughts are some of the slogans of our times resulting from melting of glaciers and other in predictabilities.

I may refer to Mother Earth. This title originates in the Canticle of Brother Sun in the writings of St. Francis. I dare to call it: now is this hour of Mother Earth. It is a Franciscan hour. It is our Franciscan hour to respond to the needs of our time to safe the globe and humanity to embrace the idea of care for nature, environment and God's Creation. Mother Earth network is a Foundation of Kenya with its legal structures recorded as PS 1530 in Kenya.

Mother Earth is known throughout a good number of areas. It has settled in Nairobi, Kenya and in other places.

It should be a next step to spread it to further areas with its message, values and activities. It is an invitation to all Franciscans, brothers and sisters to own it, to strengthen it and to promote it. We in Nairobi really search for partners and stakeholders, for people, who support us wholeheartedly.

Franciscans are the most widespread spiritual family of the Catholic Church. Which kind of influence could we develop, if we unite under the common project: to care for Mother Earth. We

have talented brothers and sisters, who can write and act. We have the contacts to people at the grassroots in all five continents.

We have the authorities to understand us, to guide and support us. Let us make Mother Earth Network a worldwide functioning network for the benefit of all people. If everybody starts at home, we are spreading far and further. In the footsteps of St. Francis we cooperate with all people of good will. St. Francis did not know borders. So do us. St. Francis knew only brothers and sisters and friends. So do us.

It is such a great gift and God given grace to be a Franciscan. The world and the hearts of people are open for us. They will cooperate in all well planned and organized activities: cleaning, recycling, avoiding of waist, planting of trees, new modern agricultural methods, joy for nature, joy for natural growth, joy for cleanness, joy for good air, joy for clear and clean water, joy for common efforts, joy for a common human and universal message.

In the personality of St. Francis was deeply rooted a motivation for creativity. This Franciscan sense of creativity is our power and resource. New inspirations will guide us, will form us and succeed with us.

With Pope Francis a new horizon of Franciscan involvements and strategies has started to dawn. We take the challenge and respond to it. The problems of our times are our Franciscan chances to safe humankind from collapse.

Your Brother in Christ and Francis

Br. Hermann Borg ofm

Chairman – Nairobi

