



Dear Brothers,

Fraternal greetings.

With the promulgation of *Laudato Si'* (LS), our Congregation has sharpened our ears to hear the cry of the planet earth and of the poor. The last General Chapter wanted that we initiate a process of “ecological conversion” which should redefine our mission and lifestyles (MS 8). I am glad that the ecological consciousness has significantly grown among us.

The Church has further deepened her awareness of the need for an integral human ecology and commitment to the care of creation and of the poor by conducting the synod for the Amazon (6 to 27 October 2019) and the Year of *Laudato Si'* (24 May 2020-24 May 2021). The crucial factor of change is the action steps that should follow the reflections. The 'Care of Creation' Section of the *Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development* and *The Global Catholic Climate Movement* have identified 7 goals from LS on which action program can be prepared and lived. Holy Father has launched the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform on May 25, 2021. (Watch: <https://youtu.be/XoxZAHVXQIg>).

I remember how our Father Founder, during his mission in Cuba, was promoting the welfare of the poor, a sustainable agriculture, the creation of botanical gardens, and conservation of the trees, as seen in his booklet *Reflexiones sobre la Agricultura*. *Laudato Si'* action plan is an opportunity for us to renew the passion that our Founder felt towards the empowerment of the people and the planet.

Our General SoMi team together with the Claretian Family, have conducted a survey on the present practices and the future proposals related to the LS goals. The report of the survey indicates that there are already several ecological practices followed by us and it also suggests further new programs for the future which the JPIC Secretariate will animate and accompany.

We shall involve all our communities and Institutions in this wonderful venture. I request you, dear brothers, to prepare a *Laudato Si'* action plan, appropriate to your respective context, drawing inspiration from the result of the survey. I appeal to you to commit yourself to practice these action steps for the coming seven years in your personal, community and apostolic lives and thus make this new ecological approach an integral part of our Claretian culture. I ask the Major Superiors to do the needful to realize this

project in your respective Major Organisms. Let us join the Universal Church in her effort to provide *green recovery* to our planet and join the collective effort of humanity to eradicate poverty and misery from our midst.

God bless you.



Fr. Mathew Vattamattam, CMF
Superior General
Rome, 31 May 2021

