



## "A HOME FOR ALL? RENEWING THE OIKOS OF GOD."

*By Marinez Capra, SSND -International Shalom Coordinator*

During the times in which we live with the climate emergency and ecological crisis continuing to evolve to dangerous levels, we can hear an even stronger and more urgent call to unite our prayers and actions with a belief in the power of transformation when we come together as one human family during 2021 Season of Creation, September 1 to October 4. This year's theme aims to celebrate the integral web of relationships that sustains the well-being in our Mother Earth. Personally and communally we are invited to participate through prayer, sustainability projects, or advocacy from where we live and minister.



Sadly and painfully, we are witnessing the increasing destruction of habitats and destabilization of ecosystems, resulting in the loss of lives and a threat to our living together in the only common home we have. Millions of our brothers and sisters in our human family are forced to flee their homes because of climate insecurity, conflicts, and poverty. Countless people in our world do not have a decent *aikos* to be and live in. Pope Francis warns us "We are not faced with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather with a complex crisis that is both social and environmental. Strategies for a solution require an integrated approach to fighting poverty, restoring the dignity of the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature." ([LS # 139](#)).

The celebration of *Laudato Si'* Week has made us even more aware of the urgent need to ensure a dignified home, a safe "oikos" for all creatures, so that life in our common home will endure. The cry of creation and the cry of the poor call us to a personal and common ecological conversion that brings about a profound transformation of heart and mindset. It also requires economic, social, educational, political, and technological solutions that are rooted in a vision of justice that brings dignity for every creature and sustainability for all. The hope is that this Season of Creation will strengthen ecumenical unity to act and advocate for the care of creation and the care of the poor as we engage deeper in the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform. May this sacred time inspire and encourage us to strive in collaboration with others to defend the dignity of all life and to find ways to ensure that all have a home in which to live and flourish.



May we all take responsibility for the work of renewing the *oikos* of our Creator God and all his creatures as we act together to give even more life to the *Laudato Si'* Goals. Our commitment to embark on a seven-year journey as a *Laudato Si'* Congregation towards integral ecology is one more opportunity to give our best contribution to change the course of our history.

## A Commitment to care for our home

*By Rosenilde Rosa da Silva Acácio, SSNO - Shalom Contact and Vice-Principal of CNSD - PALC*

As we learned about and reflected on the reality of our biodiversity, we became aware of the urgent need to take a proactive stance of actions and attitudes that transform the reality where we live. Inspired by "Biodiversity" decade, *Laudato Si'* Week and the actions of Mr. Hélio da Silva who planted more than 33,000 trees, we promoted a webinar with Mr. Hélio to learn from him. His commitment and perseverance made him the creator of the first [Linear Park](#) of Sao Paulo and the fifth in the world. This motivated and challenged us as educators and students to engage in the mission of caring for and preserving the *habitat* where we live in our neighborhood and city. Pope Francis says: the "environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity and the responsibility everyone". (*Laudato Si'*). Considering the reality of our biodiversity, we educators of the Colégio Nossa Senhora das Dores, São Paulo-Brazil, committed ourselves to reflect:

- How aware are we that, in the future, the life of the planet depends on our actions today?
- What level of awareness do we want to leave to the generations that are in our school?
- Do my day-to-day life attitudes demonstrate care and responsibility for the preservation of biodiversity?

Moved by the testimony of Mr. Hélio, a person who overflows light and love through his concrete actions, our students felt encouraged to take up the following challenges in face of the ecological problems currently faced in Sao Paulo:

- ❖ To make known one of the largest urban forests on the planet, "Cantareira Forest", which is a remnant area of the Atlantic Forest and home to great biodiversity.
- ❖ To promote the planting of trees along the streets where they live.
- ❖ To replace the impermeable floor in the backyard of their houses with a draining floor and, where there is space, make a small garden.
- ❖ To create green walls where the house or wall accommodates.

These are some practices and ongoing education that we will carry out with the students. Taking care of the planet and preserving biodiversity is a commitment for all of us!

## Making the SDGs Relevant

*By Sr. Beatriz Martinez-Garcia , SSND - UN-NGO Representative*

In 2015 all the Member States of the United Nations unanimously adopted the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in which they committed to ensuring that no one is left behind.



Every year since 2016, it is the process of the UN that some countries present their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). The countries report how they are integrating the SDGs into their national development plans, and how that integration has improved the quality of life of their inhabitants and the environment.

This year's HLPF was held from July 6 to 15. On the last three days, 44 countries presented their VNRs, including the [Czech Republic](#), [Germany](#), [Guatemala](#), [Japan](#), [Paraguay](#), and [Sierra Leone](#). To read the content of these reports, click on the country name.

For the second consecutive year, the HLPF was virtual. A delegation of 12 sisters and 4 associates from the Provinces of Africa, Latin American and the Caribbean, Atlantic-Midwest, and Central Pacific represented us. This year's HLPF will focus on the following SDGs, 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16, and 17.

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, we may ask what SDGs are related to my ministry.

## 2021 International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour

*By Sr. Beatriz Martinez-Garcia, SSND - UN-NGO Representative*



The United Nations General Assembly declares international years to raise awareness of global issues, such as child labour. The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines child labor as the type of work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. [Child Labour: Global estimates 2020, trends and the road forward](#) reports that 160 million of children are involved in child labour; 63 million of them are girls and 97 million are boys. 79 million of these children perform hazardous work that can result in permanent disability, ill health, and psychological damage.

The ILO has adopted two conventions to stop child labour: [Convention 138](#) establishes 15 as the minimum age for work in general and [Convention 182](#) legally prohibits the worst forms of child labour.

The clock is ticking. The [Sustainable Development Goal Target 8.7](#) calls Member States, private and public sector and civil society organizations to take immediate and effective measures to end child labour in all its forms by 2025.

We can contribute to stopping child labour by consuming products made by their forced work.

## Recovering Better for an Equitable and Sustainable World

*By Marinez Capra, SSND, - International Shalom Coordinator*

This is the 2021 theme for the **International Day of Peace**. Pope Francis, in his message for the celebration of the 54th world day of peace, affirmed that for peace to be a reality in us and among us it is extremely necessary to create a culture of care. The culture of care thus calls for "a common, supportive and inclusive commitment to protecting and promoting the dignity and, and to advance mutual respect and acceptance. As such, it represents a privileged path to *peace*." ([World Day of Peace January 1 2021](#)) In many parts of the world, there is a need for paths of peace to heal open wounds. There is also a need for peacemakers, men and women prepared to work boldly and creatively to initiate processes of healing and renewed encounter ". ([Fratelli - Tutti](#) #225)



[Dia Internacional da Paz](#)

The pandemic has gone hand in hand with the increase in stigmatization, discrimination and hatred, which has only decimated more lives instead of saving them. To struggle against and get rid of this common enemy of humanity, we must feel in our heart that we are not each other's enemies, but are all *fratelli* and *sorelle* belonging to the same human family. In order to

recover from the devastation and hurts caused by the pandemic, we are called to make peace and build bridges of reconciliation with each other. We can bring peace by confronting acts of hate online and offline, and by spreading compassion, kindness and hope in the face of the pandemic and as we recover.

The year of the Jubilee of the Earth has called us to make peace with nature. As we witness and feel, despite travel restrictions and economic cuts, the climate crisis is not on pause. It calls for climate justice, for a green-friendly, a fair-trade and a sustainable global economy that produces jobs, reduces emissions, and builds resilience to climate impacts as ways to recover better and bring sustainability in the vision of *Laudato Si'*.

## The Sustainable Development Goals in the Life of the SSNDs

By Sr. Beatriz Martinez-Garcia, SSND - UN-NGO Representative



Our 24th General Chapter calls us to embrace Gospel Poverty and risk opening ourselves to be transformed. The **17 Sustainable Development Goals** are designed to transform our world by ensuring people enjoy peace and prosperity, while at the same time protecting our planet.

In 2019, Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy General, at the "[Decade of Action](#)" states: "The SDGs demand a transformation of economies, societies, and human behaviors. This transformation will not happen people across the world are aware of the Goals, see their own concerns in the Goals, and know what they can do to implement the Goals." How do we SSNDs allow the SDGs help us to be transformed? How do the SDGs influence my daily life?

## Towards an Ever Wider “We”

Every year the World Day of Migrants and Refugees is the last Sunday of September; in 2021 it will be celebrated on **September 26**. The title for his annual message, the Holy Father has chosen *Towards an ever wider “we”*. May we find ways to let the tent of our heart widen for vulnerable people on the move.



Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Resources and the [Pope’s Message](#) for the 2021 World Day of Migrants and Refugees can be found in many languages at <https://migrants-refugees.va/world-day-of-migrants-refugees/>.

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***Prophetically, we commit to educate, advocate, and act in collaboration with others for the dignity of life and the care of all creation.***

*(Love Gives Everything, SSND Directional Statement)*