

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Green Churches Network participates in the launch of the Laudato Si' Action Platform

May 25, 2021 – Rome and Montréal. Cardinal Peter Turkson, Prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, has announced the creation of a <u>Laudato Si'</u> <u>Action Platform</u>.

We are pleased to announce that the *Green Churches Network* has a central role in the development of the platform as a member of the Family, Parish, Diocese and Archdiocese Working Group.

The Laudato Si' Action Platform is a key Vatican initiative to empower the universal Church to achieve total sustainability in the holistic spirit of integral ecology. As storms grow more intense, seas rise, and deserts grow, the human family is facing ever-higher risks of hunger, sickness, and conflict. Sadly, it is the most vulnerable of our sisters and brothers who face the worst of the consequences.

For decades, the Church has taught us to urgently respond to this crisis. The *Green Churches Network* has helped lead the response since 2006, as already 90 registered green churches have active projects reducing their environmental footprint and promoting a spirituality towards Creation care.

The Laudato Si' Action Platform builds on the foundation established by partner organizations like the *Green Churches Network*. In creating a shared space for action, it offers new momentum to address our ecological crisis urgently and ambitiously. This is a great step forward towards the growth and development needed as we work to build a better future together.

Norman Lévesque, founder of the *Green Churches Network*, said that the "Laudato Si' Action Platform will be a great tool for parishes, dioceses, different institutions and even families to reduce their footprint on God's Creation."

Today's announcement launches the first phase of the initiative. The first phase is an opportunity for institutions, communities, and families to review initial information and consider their path forward.

The next phase of development will launch on October 4th, which is the Feast of St. Francis and the conclusion of the Season of Creation. The *Green Churches Network* will contribute to the continued development of this initiative in the countdown towards October 4th.

The Laudato Si' Action Platform is available at laudatosiactionplatform.org.

For your use, a video is available here: <u>https://youtu.be/AHahv2fCDqQ</u>

For more information about Laudato Si Action Platform, please contact:

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Member of the Working group for the Laudato Si Action Platform Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development (Vatican)

FREE online course about Laudato Si' <u>https://creationcare.teachable.com/p/laudatosi</u>

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