

**para el mundo - pour le monde - for the World - para o mundo - per il mondo**

In response to the calls of the Church, the 2019 General Chapter set us this goal: "As Sa-Fa Family we feel the call to care for life, the environment and nature. 'Praise be to you, my Lord, for our sister mother earth, who sustains us and governs us and produces various fruits with colourful flowers and grass' (Laudato si, 1)". The General Council has proposed to the whole Sa-Fa Family that the year 2025 be dedicated to a reflection on "The Poor and Integral Ecology", in response to the call of the Chapter.

We are aware that our common home, the creation entrusted by God to the care of humanity, is threatened by many actions that damage it and provoke the ecological and climate crisis we are suffering. Considering the urgency of the current crisis, it is imperative that society takes action so that every human group is actively involved in implementing actions to mitigate the environmental crisis. This is a commitment that the entire Sa-Fa Family must make.

## **Called to Care for Life, The Environment and Nature**



In the current context of sustainable development, the fight against social inequalities and climate change are the concepts that are at the forefront of development discourses and theories. Thus, public and private institutions around the world are working in synergy to address the multiple challenges of social inequalities and the environmental crisis.

The document "***The poor and integral ecology***", which the General Council has sent out, offers a reflection that is intended to be, at the same time, a practical guide to the simple and concrete actions that we can take within our different communities and structures to alleviate not only the misery of the poor, but also to contribute to effectively combating the climate crisis.

From this perspective, this issue of Sa-Fa Family aims to be one more element that helps to create this awareness and invites religious communities, fraternities, educational communities and each member to take steps towards the eradication of poverty and the care of our common home

# The Sa-Fa Family answer...



## Encontro com o Irmão Gabriel

Brasília, 30 de janeiro a 2 de fevereiro de 2025

Between the 30th of January and the 2nd of February 2025 the Encounter with Brother Gabriel - "...And God saw that it was good" took place in the Holy Family farm in Brasília. It was an encounter with the person of the Founder, trying to deepen his charism, emphasizing the care of the other and the safeguarding of the environment, together with the proposals of Pope Francis in Laudato si'.

A solidarity breakfast (all students): Hunger is not only a sad reality in many countries, but it is already present in our cities. After working to raise awareness, we invite our students to - for one day - enjoy a breakfast while at the same time collaborating in a Manos Unidas project (School Sagrada Familia. Barcelona. ES).

Annual campaign to collect non-perishable food and warm clothes. Aimed at parents, employees and students in favour of charitable institutions (School Sagrada Familia. Brasília. BR).

Talk on "Global Education Compact" for teachers (Nª Sra. de Guadalupe, Canelones, UY).

Construction of agro-ecological, solidarity, community and educational vegetable gardens. Aimed at the surrounding community, especially those in situations of social vulnerability (I. Escuti. Córdoba. AR)

Voz Natura Project. Various activities aimed at the whole educational community: reforestation; beach cleaning; car-free day; talks for students given by the patrols in charge of forests (Nª Sra. del Carmen. Finisterre. ES)

Cleaning of green spaces. Involves the whole Verbo Divino Educational Unit (Guaranda, EC).

Schools for sustainability: Annual school sustainability campaign promoted by the City Council. Involves the whole school (Sagrada Familia School, Gavà, ES).

Enriching experiences for students with: outdoor classes, collecting materials and observing nature, laboratory classes with scientific experiments that demonstrate ecological concepts such as photosynthesis and the water cycle, classroom activities that stimulate creativity with artistic projects using recyclable materials, among others (School Sagrada Familia. Ibema. BR).

After-school project based on sustainability, giving priority to unstructured toys, such as elements from nature and scrap metal. It also develops experiences such as the production of compost through composting and the cultivation of a vegetable garden (School Sagrada Familia. Itaipiranga. BR).

Voluntary activity in the annual collection of money for the "Latinha do Bem" project. Through the collection, the pastoral group donates food, groceries and other necessities to children, the elderly and other needy people. The activity stood out during the floods we suffered last year (School Gabriel Taborin. Marau. BR).

Transversal project "Common House" that motivates work units in the care of the environment, by grade for 5 years, children and families from 2 years to 6th EBI. (School Sagrada Familia. Montevideo. UY)



"Green Brigade" of the Nuestra Señora del Carmen School, Finisterre (ES), cleaning a beach.



# ... for the care of life and nature

School garden of aromatic plants, vegetables. Secondary school students. Cultivation and sowing. Watering and care. Posters with the names of the plants. Slogans to promote the consumption of local fruit and vegetables. Visit by Infant and Primary School students guided by Secondary School students (Virgen del Carmen School, Palma de Mallorca, ES)

Eco Hour: Aimed at students from 3EGB to 3BGU, teachers and parents. Once a term, all the students together with their teacher analyse a common topic. The slide presentation is prepared by the Ecology Club and shared through the Teachers' chat group. The same content is also shared at the termly parents' meeting. Topics covered in the 2023-2024 school year: plastic waste management, birds and conservation and climate change (U.E. San Vicente Ferrer, Puyo, EC)

Open class on disease prevention in the framework of Heart Week, for students and parents. 4th Grade Primary School (School Sagrada Familia. Salto. UY)



"Green" recreation at the U.E. San Vicente Ferrer of Puyo - Ecuador



In September last year, the Environmental Education team of Argentina held the second Conference of recognition and enhancement of Villa Sagrada Familia (San Antonio de Arredondo) from a biocultural perspective and we dream of future actions to make it an open-air classroom for the care of the Common Home (Sa-Fa Family Argentina).

Project "Nazarene Fraternity in Action - Home for the Elderly": Beyond living together and the study of charismatic texts, prayer and the cultivation of faith, another objective of the group, which brings together members of our school and the FAFE University, is to promote volunteer activities and the delivery of food, clothes and other things to the needy. All this is carried out, in particular, with our annual Campaign of donations to the Vô Elídio Home for the Elderly (Gabriel Taborin School. Marau. BR).

In our retreat and camp activities, which take place outside the school, we promote the care of nature and the care of our common home (Sa-Fa Family Uruguay).

We encourage the reduction of plastic with the use of reusable bottles, as well as the elaboration of eco-print bags. Manifestos in favour of caring for nature were prepared and read before the mayoress and distributed through social networks to involve citizens (C. Nª Sra. del Carmen. Finisterre. ES)

Executives of the "Gabriel Taborin College of Davao" (Philippines) planting trees on campus on "Family Day".



# 7 objectives of Laudato Si'

These seven objectives guide the urgent and immediate actions that each of us can carry out to care for our common home. *"All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents"* (Laudato Si' 14).

## 1. Response to the Cry of the Earth

The Response to the Cry of the Earth is a call to protect our common home for the good of all, while equitably addressing the climate crisis, biodiversity loss and ecological sustainability. Actions could include adopting renewable energy and energy sufficiency measures, achieving carbon neutrality, protecting biodiversity, promoting sustainable agriculture and ensuring access to drinking water for all. Saving water, recycling...

## 2. Response to the Cry of the Poor

The Response to the Cry of the Poor is a call to promote eco-justice, aware that we are called to defend human life from conception to death, and all forms of life on Earth. Actions could include projects to promote solidarity, with special attention to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, refugees, migrants and children at risk, analysis and improvement of social systems and social service programmes. Attention to the needs of friends and neighbours, participating in aid campaigns...

## 3. Ecological Economy

The Ecological Economy recognizes that the economy is a subsystem of human society, which in turn is integrated into the biosphere, our common home. Actions could include sustainable production and consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any activity harmful to the planet and people; supporting circular economies and prioritizing care work and protecting the dignity of workers. Explain in classes what it is...

## 4. Simple Lifestyles

The Adoption of simple, sustainable Lifestyles is based on the idea of sufficiency and encouraging moderation in the use of resources and energy. Actions could include reducing waste and recycling, adopting sustainable eating habits (opting for a more plant-based diet and reducing meat consumption), increased use of public transport, active mobility (walking, cycling) and avoid single-use items (e.g. plastic, etc.).

## 5. Ecological Education

Ecological Education consists of rethinking and redesigning curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology to promote ecological awareness and carry out transformative actions. Actions could include ensuring equitable access to education for all and promoting human rights, promoting Laudato Si' themes within the community, encouraging ecological leadership (students, teachers) and ecological restoration activities.

## 6. Ecological Spirituality

Ecological Spirituality arises from a profound ecological conversion and helps us "discover God in all things," both in the beauty of creation and in the sighs of the sick and the groans of the afflicted, aware that the life of the Spirit is not dissociated from worldly realities. Actions could include the promotion of creation-based liturgical celebrations, the development of ecological catechesis, retreats and formation programmes, etc.

## 7. Participate in common

It involves conceiving a synodal path of community commitment and participatory action at various levels. Actions could include the promotion of defence and the development of popular campaigns, fostering roots and a sense of belonging in local communities, neighborhood eco-systems, collaborating in NGOs, working in school teams, helping in the family, etc.

