

## Integral Ecology



Dear Sisters,

Environmental problems, global warming and climate change are increasingly pressing issues that call for greater knowledge, more training and commitment to concrete actions from all of us. We need to know more about the practices that threaten nature and ecological balances, that damage life and destroy the planet; we need more training to face these situations with determination and responsibility, and to make changes in our practices, renunciations and actions that are indispensable for the recovery of certain equilibriums.

In this month's INFO, we wanted to return to the theme of Integral Ecology, which we dealt with in a previous issue, but in a different way from what we usually do. This time, we do not report on the practices and experiences of the sisters, communities, educational or pastoral centres, giving an account of the growing sensitivity, or of the creativity in the application of one of our Chapter priorities. This time, we have tried to approach the subject in a broader way, and to make known actions carried out by other people, groups, institutions,... We move closer to new projects which today are giving good results in the different countries where we live. We offer information to nourish our research, broaden our creativity and deepen our understanding of the subject. Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si* is still relevant and is an important tool for our formation. Its guidelines run through the entire INFO with citations that point to environmental problems without separating them from the social dramas they involve, and help us to grow in our ecological spirituality. In the

article we have added links where you can find more details if you want to go deeper, get ideas, get involved in a project...

I am writing this letter to you as we are witnessing the Russian invasion of Ukraine, with the loss of thousands of human lives, the migration of millions of people, the destruction of cities, and the uncertainty and fear of the whole world as it closely follows events that could escalate into apocalyptic events. I cannot help but think also of other conflicts currently raging on the planet, which are less publicised but no less horrifying and the suffering of their victims. How can we not express our impotence and indignation and say strongly that all war is the fruit of senselessness and irrationality!

There is no need to remind us that in wars everyone is a loser. History teaches us that. And it also teaches us that the consequences always hits hardest the weakest, the poorest, the innocent... Without forgetting the sometimes irreparable effects on the environment...

Pope Francis, ostensibly affected by the situation, along with calling for an end to war and dialogue to resolve any conflict, has exhorted believers of all faiths to prayer and supplication. Let us redouble our prayers in the hope that the prophecy of Isaiah will one day be fulfilled, according to which the peoples "shall beat their swords into pruning hooks and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, nor shall they train themselves for war" (Is 2:4). May Mary, our Lady of Peace, intercede for the whole of humanity.

Warmest regards.