



Introduction: *Leader of Prayer*

**O**n *Care for Our Common Home (Laudato Si')*, Pope Francis' first encyclical emphasizes that everything is interconnected. This includes nature and culture, as well as the people of today and future generations. Pope Francis urges us to cooperate with God's design in our relationship with one another and

with the world around us in pursuit of the common good. This prayer continues our reflection on *Laudato Si'* in light of how our discussions and decisions as trustees and administrators of a CSJ Sponsored Ministry impact the common good and future generations.<sup>1</sup>

**Readings** From *Deuteronomy 4:9* — Do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

From the *Great Law of the Iroquois Confederacy* — In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations.

**Reflection:** — *from Laudato Si' : On the Care of Earth, Our Common Home*<sup>2</sup>

**Reader 1:** The common good is "the sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfilment". *LS 1#156*

**Reader 2:** Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others. *LS 1#159*

**Reader 3:** Intergenerational solidarity is not optional, but rather a basic question of justice, since the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us. *LS 1#159*

What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? *LS1#160*

**RESPONSE:** **Together may we dare to dream, not just for ourselves, but for our many neighbors in this universe.**<sup>2</sup>

- ◇ Creator God, enlighten us that we may seek the common good in all things, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. The poor and the earth are crying out. **RESPONSE**
- ◇ Jesus who lived among us, through you all things were made. You were formed in the womb of Mary our Mother, you became part of this earth, and you gazed upon this world with human eyes. **RESPONSE**
- ◇ Spirit of Inclusive Love, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future and for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. **RESPONSE**

**FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:** *What must we do to provide for future generations? How does this inform our decisions as trustees and administrators of a CSJ Sponsored Ministry?*

**Closing Prayer:**

We pray today for a deeper awareness of the common good and what it requires of us. With the help of your Holy Spirit, may we use our resources wisely for the good of all. In every relationship may we be and act in ever-widening circles of love poured out toward every kind of neighbor without distinction.

*Amen.*

The Sponsored Ministries of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Boston strive to bring the message of God's active and inclusive love to persons of all races and religious beliefs especially those who find themselves at the breaking points of society.

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<sup>1</sup>Adapted from *Laudato Si', A Study Guide on the Encyclical by Pope Francis*, Archdiocese of Washington, June, 2015, p.9  
<sup>2</sup>Unless otherwise noted, all prayers and reflections are from *Laudato Si'*,  
<sup>3</sup>Chapter Prayer—Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston, 2012-2013