



SEASON OF CREATION



**OBLATES OF MARY
IMMACULATE**

August 26, 2021

Casa Generalizia OMI
Via Aurelia 290
Roma-Aurelio
00165 Italy

Dear Oblate Unit Superior,

Greetings at the threshold of the Season of Creation 2021!

From September 1 to October 4 this year, the global Christian family will together celebrate the Season of Creation around the theme, **“A home for all? Renewing the Oikos of God”**. It will be a time of renewed prayer and action for our common home.

In August of 2020, Father General Louis Lougen wrote his letter to the Congregation with a call to wake up and get involved in the concerted action on behalf of the poor who are the most affected by the destruction of the environment. There is a sense of urgency in this effort, conscious of the irreversible devastation towards which our common home is headed, due to relentless exploitation.

In response to this call, the General Mission Committee and the General Service of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation launched a series of webinars aimed at generating interest in Pope Francis' landmark encyclical **Laudato si'** and the various practical ways in which Oblate communities have responded and could still respond. These webinars are on the OMI YouTube channel: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLp4qWByyAeNIC57a2d7fUz-j4fKibOWYu>.

At the most recent joint meeting of the General Mission Committee and the General Service of JPIC in June 2021, we reiterated anew the strong encouragement for Oblate Units to engage in a definite program of reflection, discernment, and action, in the global effort towards an integral ecology.

Our action in this regard is also to be our Congregation's participation in the Catholic Church's **Laudato si' Action Platform**, which brings together institutions, communities, and families together in learning and growing together in love for God, for each other, and for our common home.

In order to help Oblate Units animate their communities and institutions, we are attaching some useful resources to get things going. We ask that the leadership of your Unit bring together, for example, the JPIC Coordinator, Youth Ministry Coordinator, lay associates, formators, community animators, etc. in a joint effort at reflection and action, using these resources, as well as other materials that are in rich abundance on the internet.

It may be that your Unit is already doing some projects or programs aligned with the goals of *Laudato si'*; consider scaling up these programs to become a Unit-wide program and to get many other communities and institutions involved.

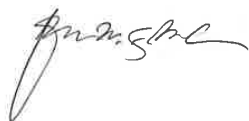
Important: Please let us know of your Unit initiatives, whether in communities or institutions, but especially if your whole Unit is inspired to embark on a commitment over a number of years to pursue a project of integral ecology.

Alternatively, you can also directly register your Unit's participation in the website <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/> with the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) as the organization name.

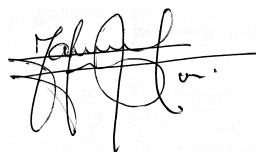
Should you need further guidance or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us—Jean-Hérick, Ramon, or Peter Stoll (asiaocouncillor@omigen.org).

May St. Eugene de Mazenod, whose charism to evangelize the poor we carry, and Mary Immaculate, our Patroness who gave voice to the lowly, be our guide and help in our pilgrimage.

Fraternally yours,



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Attachments:

Overview of Laudato si' Goals and Actions
Description of the Laudato si' Plans
Suggested Discernment Process
Discernment Resources and Prayers
Prayers for the 7 Sectors

Louis Lougen, "A Wake-up Call To Get Involved"
Alberto Parise, "The Transition of Religious Congregations to Integral Ecology"

Websites:

www.seasonofcreation.org
www.laudatosiactionplatform.org

YouTube:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLp4qWByyAeNIC57a2d7fUz-j4fKibOWYu>