



# Resolutions To Action

LCWR Global Concerns Committee

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## The Challenge Before Humanity: Facing the Climate Crisis

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### EXPERIENCE

#### Moral Imagination Drives the Creative Process

Reach back into your memory. Remember seeing a doting relative carefully set up a 5-year-old to draw a picture for her. The table and chair are selected. The child is enthroned. Paper and crayons are handed over like soon-to-be tools for providing a treasure which just might be showcased on the refrigerator door. Excitement lights the eyes of both child and relative. Totally engaged, the child puts a mark on the paper. Then another. And his enthusiasm is lit. Suddenly, though, with the 4th or 5th mark, the child frowns, the crayon is dropped, the two little hands reach for the edges of the paper — to tear it up, or crumble it. The picture is ruined. The child might be willing to start over.

What does it take in terms of years before the child comes to imagine that an erring line can be incorporated into something even more interesting than what he had originally imagined? New colors, new types of lines, new

expressions of the pride of creatorship is within reach — if he just pauses, looks anew at the started masterpiece which lay there to entice his imagination. Does this type of maturity get invited forth by the child and his doting relative in 6 months? In 2 years?

### SOCIAL ANALYSIS

#### Humanity is Confronted by New Consciousness

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis, in the encouraging and concerned tones of a beloved relative, wants us to know of his affection and pride in all of God's people. Every aspect and level of the non-human world, and peoples in every part of our world, are experiencing crises, devastating tragedies, and unbelievable deaths and losses. The waters are rising; lands and seas are becoming wastelands; air and land-space are becoming garbage

dumps. The energy of humanity which is meant to bring hope, creativity, imagination, partnership, and mutuality to the world and our relationships needs to be called forth.

Pope Francis is inviting all of humanity, and each of us in local communities, to make a decision: what will we do to help heal our broken environment and mend our unjust relationships with one another and with our environment?

In this case, we can't start over. We can't throw it all away or give up on our relationship with our common home — its environment and its people. Our Creator God is helping us face the disappointment in ourselves for the crisis which

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we humans have inflicted on our planet. We are invited to recognize in this dark moment a contemporary opportunity: multiple facets of creation each satisfy, heal, and challenge humanity's positive responses. We can intentionally promote the importance of interconnectivity, of interrelationships, of mutual learning which are intrinsic for healing our environment. We can promote this new awareness and lifestyle.

## REFLECTION

### Be Open to Dynamic Ways of Healing Our Broken World

Pope Francis urges us to recognize that our emerging understanding of how our earth evolved to its present level of diversity is helping us. Today we can concretely recognize how we are invited to be co-creators of a renewed relationship with creation. This is not simply an intellectual discovery. Rather, we are seeing our inaction at all levels of the environment. Everything and everyone is suffering. We are recognizing that laws and principles within every aspect of creation are on the side of growth, of balance, of self-correction. Our self-centered views of our environment are being broken open to offer genuine love to all that is suffering. Human beings are starting to pinpoint lifestyles, practices, and policies which are promoting this suffering. We can become advocates on behalf of our suffering world.

In Chapter 4 of *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis sets a new tone. He is inviting each of us, individuals and communities, to intentionally become one humanity. This is the truth. This is the true source of our strength and creativity. These we can harness for slowing crises, for promoting new forms of interaction which can promote healing and health in our common home.

While regions can address (and with some success) what they perceive to be their local crisis, sustainable response will only come from the awareness of the necessary and essential interconnectedness of every part of the environment. Pope Francis says this succinctly: "Everything is interconnected." We humans must learn a new consciousness of mutuality and trust in order to fulfill our role in relation to our world and all its creatures.

Chapter 4 is the bugle call for a level of personal and communal faith. It is faith, first, that is humble and openminded appreciation for all the peoples of the world and their love for their own part of our earth. On a local level, we are all learning how to care for our immediate environment and relationships. Micromanaging and macro-managing

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will need to interact respectfully and scientifically. Second, it is a bugle call for faith in the Creating God. God's love permeates, grounds, energizes, all of creation. God's love is the source for humanity's moral consciousness.

Our own moral drive reflects a primordial call to trust in God and in

the process of evolutionary growth. You and I will not know in this lifetime how our love, grief, research, communal service are influencing and changing the future for the whole of creation. Yet our contributions are effective. The divinely enfolded cosmos is being drawn into its future by the love of God and the energy of each of the elements of creation.

## ACTION

### Awake and Energize Your Hearts for the Long Efforts

All is gift. Let's strengthen the growing awareness that all of creation is interconnected and its healing will require practices which emphasize this reality.

1. Contemplate with love the birds, clouds, flowers, mountains, the sea; contemplate the crisis, devastation, death which threaten so much of this gift. It enables us to know grief, repentance, and re-formed lifestyles.
2. Participate in events that solidify your awareness, your fear, your creative energies which see that global environmental deterioration is a reality none of us can ignore.
3. Take actions that can influence individuals, groups, and leaders to promote lifestyle changes more respectful and supportive of humanity's and earth's sustainability.

