



LAUDATO SI' Goal #4 Cry of the Poor

Cry of the poor refers to the need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family. *There are no frontiers or barriers, political or social behind which we can hide, still less is there room for the globalization of indifference.*[LS 52]

As we commit ourselves to this 7-year journey toward sustainability in the spirit of the “Integral Ecology” of Laudato Si, let us act proactively to alleviate the burden of poverty.

Pope Francis presents and considers integral ecology which, in part, reiterates that the care for creation is intimately connected to a preferential option for the poor since those with the least are most harmed by ecological degradation. Pope Francis relates the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. The earth and the poor have equally endured the tears of lamentation. The cry is not just an expression of pain but also an appeal to responsibility. Thus, we need to take seriously the groaning of our ecology and humanity. *CADIS update January 2022*

God of all, source and goal of community, whose will is that all your people enjoy fullness of life, may we be builders of community, caring for your good earth here and worldwide, that we may delight in diversity and choose solidarity, for you are in communion with us, our God, forever. Amen

Below is a short list of ways you can, and perhaps are, responding to the Cry of the Poor. You are invited to prayerfully spend some time with this list and notice what action calls to you personally.

1. Set aside a time each day to pray for those adversely affected by climate change.
2. Take a practical step to live more simply (declutter, donate extra clothing, be grateful for what is provided).
3. Go for a walk outside with an intentional awareness of the “groaning of our ecology and humanity”.
4. Take responsibility as individuals, communities and families to reduce consumption and waste of goods and resources. (water, food, fuel, etc.)
5. Support advocacy that supports climate and systemic change.
6. Make a donation to a local food bank.

In light of your reflections indicate:

1. **To which of the above are you drawn to commit?**

2. **Are there other ecological actions you want to commit to?**
