

**Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation: Love the Lord, Love the Earth,  
Love God's Kingdom  
See, Judge, Act\***

**SEE**

The message of the encyclical, Laudato Si', is that it is our sacred duty to preserve the beauty and bounty of the earth, our common home, and to hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. The Franciscan Friars of the Saint Barbara Province have created an integral ecology initiative to honor and fulfill this sacred duty. The initiative is entitled "Laudato Si' Spirit: Collaboration for Action in the West." (See: <https://laudatosispirit.org/> ) We, the Secular Franciscan Order of the St. Francis Region, have been invited to participate in this initiative.

**JUDGE**

In response to this invitation, we gathered on October 1, 2022 for a retreat at Mission San Luis Rey. Brother Keith Douglass Warner, O.F.M. from the Franciscan School of Theology and an expert on ecology, and Mercedes Matthews, Program Coordinator for Laudato Si' Spirit presented. Through an animated presentation by Brother Keith and opportunities for discussion, we learned of the climate problems and the effects on our common home, Sister Mother Earth, suffered most profoundly by the poor. Mercedes Matthews explained further how the Laudato Si' Spirit is organized, invited us to learn more on the website, and offered us her help.

**ACT**

Many of us present took the message back to our fraternities. On February 13, we convened our first meeting of the Laudato Si' Focus Group for the Secular Franciscans of the St. Francis Region. All fraternities were invited to attend. Six fraternities attended: Holy Spirit, Immaculata, Immaculate Conception, Mission San Luis Rey, St. Francis, and St. Luis the Rey. We gathered to vision how we want to move forward. We had a lively discussion with many wonderful ideas offered. We discussed how we want to examine our own lifestyles to understand how we as individuals contribute to the climate crisis and the changes we may want to make in our own lives. We discussed possible activities and actions by our fraternities and our parishes. Some dioceses in our region have Care for Creation teams and we considered how we may want to bring our Franciscan lens to that process. We acknowledge that there are possible civic actions we may eventually want to engage. We concluded we will take this message back to fraternities for further consideration on how to act.

**OUR NEXT MEETING OF THE LAUDATO Si' FOCUS GROUP IS APRIL 11  
AT 7:00 P.M. JOIN US! CONTACT PATRICIA GRACE AT  
[patriciaelizabethgrace7@gmail.com](mailto:patriciaelizabethgrace7@gmail.com) for a ZOOM INVITATION OR  
CALL HER AT 442 300-4652.**

**Peace and All Good,  
Patricia Grace, OFS  
JPIC Animator**

\**See, Judge, Act* is the name of a book by [Erin M. Brigham](#), Ph.D., a theologian and professor at the University of San Francisco. She provides a process to organize our thoughts and actions in keeping with Catholic teaching when addressing social issues.