



ORDO FRANCISCANUS SAECULARIS

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This coming 24 May will mark the 5th anniversary of Pope Francis' Encyclical, "*Laudato Si'*". In it the Holy Father, moved by the concern generated by "the cracks in the planet that we inhabit as well as ... the profoundly human causes of environmental degradation" (LS 163), expressed his desire for the opening of a dialogue among all the inhabitants of our planet with a goal of setting in motion global action for the good of our common home.

The publication of this Encyclical was enthusiastically hailed by the whole global scientific community, so much so that at COP 21, the world climate conference held in Paris in December of that same year which produced the Paris Climate Accord, the Encyclical served as a constant reference point, to the degree that it was referred to as the "*Magna Carta*" on the environment.

The spirituality at the base of this Encyclical is profoundly Franciscan and, at its presentation the Conference of the Franciscan Family (CFF), composed of the Ministers of the OFM, OFM Conv, OFM Cap, TOR, OFS and the President of the IFC/TOR thought it important to highlight its significance, inviting the Franciscan universities throughout the world to organize university courses on this document and not let it "sleep" on some library shelf. In this regard the CFF charged the Interfranciscan Commission for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (more commonly known as Romans 6), to which the OFS belongs, to prepare a Study Guide.

This guide was published on the occasion of the first anniversary of the publication of the Encyclical on the Commission's web-site. We think it is opportune to call it to your attention once again, attaching it to this circular letter so that at the local level the fraternities can reread and study the document so that what is contained in it can become the source of concrete action on behalf of our common home.

With a fraternal embrace,

Tibor Kauser  
Minister General CIOFS

