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ONE OF OUR CALLS OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER IS TO BE PEOPLE OF PROPHETIC HOPE! (POPE FRANCIS)

The earth is God's gift to us, full of beauty and wonder and it belongs to everyone but Pope Francis tells us: "We have never so hurt or mistreated our common home as in the last two centuries" (LS 53). He also says that to have a true ecological approach, we must hear "**both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor**" (LS 49).

A Way Forward

Personal and Community

- having a contemplative stance before all creation recognising its interconnectedness and allowing ourselves to be taken over by a sense of wonder and awe. (Nicolas Barré MAP 113)
- deepening our awareness of the cries of the earth, of human beings most affected and of all endangered species
- cultivating an ecological mind-set in all our undertakings
- making lifestyle choices to promote sustainable living
- reducing our carbon footprint wherever and whenever possible
- ensuring that our ecological responsibility and stewardship is included in our Formation programmes
- and we will collaborate with others in promoting the care for our mother earth at different levels

As IJ Sisters, living in our Common Home, we wholeheartedly join Pope Francis in the following commitment as we go forward along this path to new life:

"We commit ourselves to both personal and communal conversion and we wish to move forward together in an orchestrated and coordinated response in listening to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the Poor; we go forth as instruments of prophetic hope in the heart of the world." (cf UISG May 2019)

In our IJ 165th celebrations in 2019, all the girls in our 11 CHIJ schools have been specifically tasked and commissioned to be (i) Ambassadors for Peace; and (ii) Ambassadors for our Environment.

To be an ambassador for PEACE: We live today, in a world where technological and economic progress has given us good material lives but we also live in a world where increasing rifts and divisions threaten communities and nations.

Today, more than ever, there is a need to speak words of peace, to seek to understand one another even if our opinions or beliefs differ, to choose love instead of hatred, to build bridges where people are divided.



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In a divided world, we want our IJ girls to be the agents for peace and to bring hope to the people they meet and work with.

To be Ambassadors for our Environment: Mankind has progressed materially, in many significant ways over the last century. However, such progress has come at a cost to our environment. Scientists predict that temperatures could rise by 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2050. By 2100, some countries could be submerged, more people will die from heat, and a third of life forms on earth could face extinction. There is thus a great urgency for all of us to do what we can to protect our earth, to care for our common home.

Each of our IJ girls has been tasked to do what they can in their own little ways to protect our environment, and to influence their parents, siblings and friends to do the same.

All the 18,000 participants at the celebration pledged as one CHIJ Family

- to pray for and with creation
- live more simply
- be an advocate to protect our common home

Watch the video on [Laudato Si](#)

Read how the different IJ Communities are responding to Laudato Si in April [Sint Unum 2019](#)