

# Lent 2019



**CONVERSION.**  
**Pray in Lent**  
**from the SDGs 2030.**

Thanks to:



For the text and Design



## March

**6 / Wednesday**



**7 / Thursday**



**8 / Friday**



**9 / Saturday**



**10 / Sunday**



**11 / Monday**



**12 / Tuesday**



**13 / Wednesday**



**14 / Thursday**



**15 / Friday**



**16 / Saturday**



**17 / Sunday**



**18 / Monday**



**19 / Tuesday**



**20 / Wednesday**



**21 / Thursday**



**22 / Friday**



**23 / Saturday**



**24 / Sunday**



**25 / Monday**



**26 / Tuesday**



**27 / Wednesday**



**28 / Thursday**



**29 / Friday**



**30 / Saturday**



**31 / Sunday**



## April

**1 / Monday**



**2 / Tuesday**



**3 / Wednesday**



**4 / Thursday**



**5 / Friday**



**6 / Saturday**



**7 / Sunday**



**8 / Monday**



**9 / Tuesday**



**10 / Wednesday**



**11 / Thursday**



**12 / Friday**



**13 / Saturday**



**14 / Sunday**



**"T**he United Nations Agenda 2030 is a plan of action for people, the planet and prosperity. It also aims to strengthen universal peace within a broader concept of freedom. We recognize that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest challenge facing the world and a prerequisite for sustainable development.

This plan will be implemented by all countries and stakeholders through a collaborative partnership. We are determined to free humanity from the tyranny of poverty and deprivation and to heal and protect our planet. We are determined to take bold and transformative steps urgently needed to steer the world back to a path of sustainability and resilience. As we embark

on this journey together, we promise that no one will be left behind.

The United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the 169 targets we announce today demonstrate the magnitude of this ambitious new universal Agenda. They are intended to take up the Millennium Development Goals and achieve what they failed to achieve. It also aims to realize the human rights of all people and to achieve gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls. The goals and targets are integrated and indivisible and combine the three dimensions of sustainable development: Economic, Social and Environmental.

The Goals and targets will stimulate action over the next 15 years in the following areas critical to humanity and the planet.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**People:** We are determined to end poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can realize their potential with dignity and equality in a healthy environment.

**The Planet:** We are determined to protect the planet from degradation through sustainable consumption and production, sustainable management of its natural resources and needed measures to address climate change, so that it can meet the needs of present and future generations.

**Prosperity:** We are determined to ensure that all human beings enjoy a prosperous and full life, and that economic, social and technological progress takes place in harmony with nature.

**Peace:** We are determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies that are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace, nor peace without sustainable development.

**Partnerships:** We are determined to mobilize the means to implement this Agenda through a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of greater global solidarity and focusing particularly on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable in collaboration with all countries, all stakeholders, and all people.

The connection between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their need for integration are of crucial importance in fulfilling the purpose of the new Agenda. If we achieve that to which we aspire in each and every aspect of the Agenda, the living conditions of all people will be improved greatly, and our world will become a better place"<sup>1</sup>. This is how God wanted and created the world to be.

Lent is a time of change. As Pope Francis proposes to us in the encyclical *Laudato Si* (LS) and from which most of this reflection is based, Lent could be an opportunity not only for ecological conversion but also transformation in the social, spiritual and Christian dimensions of life. With the method: **To See, To Judge, To Act**, we propose for you to see the reality presented to us by the goals of SDGs, from the biblical readings of each day, and an action, which although sometimes expressed in prayer and poetry, each one of us will have to concretize. We have a task to transform our world, near and far, into how God created and dreamed it. We are called to evangelize because, **We Are Missionaries**.

<sup>1</sup> [https://unctad.org/meetings/es/Sessional-Documents/ares70d1\\_es.pdf](https://unctad.org/meetings/es/Sessional-Documents/ares70d1_es.pdf)

(Texts: P. Julio César Rioja, cmf)



**SDG Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.****OBSERVE:**

How is it that many people live every day on what a cup of coffee costs in the developed world? Extreme poverty assails us in photos of the children of Yemen and in the reports of any African country. This is an invitation for us to conversion. It is not a question of giving published data and statistics that can leave us cold, but it will be necessary to remember some information during these days of Lent. To eradicate poverty is possible. What we lack is a will and what we have is, too much hypocrisy. We need not rend our garments but give our hearts and share our resources. Above all, we need to change our mindset in order to influence others positively.

**READINGS OF THE DAY**

- Lent: Now it is the right time to be converted to God. Rend your hearts, not your garments. Be reconciled with God: now is a favorable time (2 Cor 5,20).
- Your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you (Mt 6,1).

**ACT:** *Lord of life,  
our hearts are again filled with gratitude.  
For when one is hungry, another shares their food.  
When one is thirsty, another gives a cup of water.  
When someone asks questions, another listens and responds.  
When one is lost, another searches for her.  
When someone is cursed, another gives blessing.  
When one is sick, another cares and brings healing.  
When someone's been kicked out of their house, someone opens their doors.  
When someone has lost all hope, another walks with them.*





## SDG Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

### OBSERVE

So many people are between life and death. Here are some facts from *Manos Unidas*: "815 million people in the world-- one in nine-- suffer from hunger; one in three from malnutrition". People are cursed by being born into these circumstances. Being from the southern hemisphere and/or living in a country at war, many cannot aspire to a dignified life. Our option is to embrace their cause and to transmit life so that no one is lost.

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: Choose life or death. I propose to you today blessing and curse (Dt 30,15).
- Whoever loses his life for my sake will save it (Lk 9,22).

**ACT:** Through all the people who have tried to make us aware  
that there are other ways of living  
in this dark world, where the face of God is veiled  
in the midst of calamities, when every instinct speaks of survival,  
someone still cares for others.  
And miracles of compassion abound.  
For all this we are grateful.  
Lord of all creation and its fruits,  
often times we see what is needed;  
we see times of drought  
and lives of loneliness and despair.  
Still we give you thanks  
because at times like these  
we see hands that share,  
we see those who walk in solidarity with people on the margins,  
we see arms open to embrace people whose hearts are broken.  
And so we bless you and thank you,  
because our hearts are overflowing.







## SDG Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

### OBSERVE:

Fasting is not possible for many people affected by climatic disasters, a lack of water for their crops, economic disasters, a lack of the most basic necessities that we can take for granted. We throw away piles of garbage that for others would enjoy in their lives. Even in wealthy countries, many rummage through dumpsters. Rich people belong to that 15% of the world population that holds 85% of the wealth. No matter how little we own, we can consider ourselves rich. Fasting seems like a farce; God wants another kind of fasting.

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: To fasting while waiting for the Lord. This is the fast that I want (Is 58,1).
- When the bridegroom is taken away from them, then they will fast (Mt 9,14).

**ACT:** *Lord, do not be distant from us as if you're playing a game.*

*Send forth your Word,  
the Word that tears down walls  
and makes roads sprout in the desert  
and currents in the sea.  
The Word that opens deaf ears and heals blind eyes;  
the one that puts healthy flesh where there was leprosy.  
The liberating Word that  
brings life into the deep valleys of death;  
that which inspires children  
and gives hope to the poor.*





## SDG Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

### OBSERVE:

*"Since the market tends to promote extreme consumerism in an effort to sell its products, people can easily get caught up in a whirlwind of needless buying and spending. Compulsive consumerism is one example of how the techno-economic paradigm affects individuals. Romano Guardini had already foreseen this: "The gadgets and technics forced upon him by the patterns of machine production and of abstract planning mass man accepts quite simply; they are the forms of life itself. To either a greater or lesser degree mass man is convinced that his conformity is both reasonable and just". This paradigm leads people to believe that they are free as long as they have the supposed freedom to consume. But those really free are the minority who wield economic and financial power. Amid this confusion, postmodern humanity has not yet achieved a new self-awareness capable of offering guidance and direction, and this lack of identity is a source of anxiety. We have too many means and only a few insubstantial ends." (LS, 203)*

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: To change our lives. When you offer what is yours to those who are hungry, your light will shine in the darkness (Is 58,9).
- I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance (Lk 5,27).

**ACT:** Give what you have to those who are hungry.

*Don't give the Lord more photos or reports of starving children of skin and bones with big bellies. To change one's gaze is to see malnutrition as an opportunity to share what you have with those who are hungry. There are too many means and a few insubstantial ends.*

*We can in this generation end hunger in the world, indifference is not an option as we see what is happening to our sisters and brothers in various countries.*







## **SDG Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.**

### **OBSERVE:**

*"The current global situation engenders a feeling of instability and uncertainty, which in turn becomes "a seedbed for collective selfishness". When people become self-centered and self-enclosed, their greed increases. The emptier a person's heart is, the more he or she needs things to buy, own and consume. It becomes almost impossible to accept the limits imposed by reality. In this horizon, a genuine sense of the common good also disappears. As these attitudes become more widespread, social norms are respected only to the extent that they do not clash with personal needs. So our concern cannot be limited merely to the threat of extreme weather events, but must also extend to the catastrophic consequences of social unrest. Obsession with a consumerist lifestyle, above all when few people are capable of maintaining it, can only lead to violence and mutual destruction." (LS, 204)*

### **READINGS OF THE DAY**

- The Spirit led Jesus through the desert to be tempted (Lk 4,1).

### **ACT:**

Fair Trade is an alternative that we can promote and sell with PROCLADE everywhere we are. It is a way to contribute to the SDGs. It is not just giving fish to those who are poor but giving the river and its management.

*This is why, bread, if you flee from mankind's houses,  
if they hide you away or deny you,  
if the greedy man pimps for you or the rich man takes you over,  
if the wheat does not yearn for the furrow and the soil:  
then, bread, we will refuse to pray:  
bread we will refuse to beg.  
We will fight for you instead, side by side with the others,  
with everyone who knows hunger.  
We will go after you in every river and in the air.  
We will divide the entire earth among ourselves  
so that you may germinate, and the earth will go forward  
with us: water, fire, and mankind fighting at our side. (Pablo Neruda)*







## SDG Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

### OBSERVE:

*"In assessing the environmental impact of any project, concern is usually shown for its effects on soil, water and air, yet few careful studies are made of its impact on biodiversity, as if the loss of species or animals and plant groups were of little importance. Highways, new plantations, the fencing-off of certain areas, the damming of water sources, and similar developments, crowd out natural habitats and, at times, break them up in such a way that animal populations can no longer migrate or roam freely. As a result, some species face extinction." (LS, 35)*

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: To practice true religion. Judge your neighbor justly (Lev 19,1).
- Whenever you did it to one of least of my brothers, you did it to me (Mt 25,31).

**ACT:** *Nothing That I do gives me the right to eat my fill.  
By chance I have been spared.  
(If my luck does not hold,  
I am lost.)  
They tell me: eat and drink. Be glad to be among the haves!  
But how can I eat and drink  
When I take what I eat from the starving  
And those who thirst do not have my glass of water?  
And yet I eat and drink.  
(Bertolt Brecht "To those who follow in our wake")*





## **SDG Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.**

### **OBSERVE:**

We value not only the unborn child, but also the already born one. Two million people contract HIV every year; 18,000 people worldwide die every day from air pollution. A testimony can enlighten us: "I am Matondo, I belong to the Luba ethnic group and live in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Until recently, it was very dangerous for women to have a baby because, if there was a problem, they could die because there was no adequate health center. It was also a problem for babies and children to get sick." To do God's will is to reduce the mortality rate in the first days or years of life. To do God's will is to know that every person is sacred and to take care of them.

### **READINGS OF THE DAY**

- Lent: To do God's will. My word will fulfill my desire (Is 55,10).
- Pray like this (Mt 6,7).

### **ACT:**

*"We are always capable of going out of ourselves towards the other. Unless we do this, other creatures will not be recognized for their true worth; we are unconcerned about caring for things for the sake of others; we fail to set limits on ourselves in order to avoid the suffering of others or the deterioration of our surroundings. Disinterested concern for others, and the rejection of every form of self-centeredness and self-absorption, are essential if we truly wish to care for our brothers and sisters and for the natural environment. These attitudes also attune us to the moral imperative of assessing the impact of our every action and personal decision on the world around us. If we can overcome individualism, we will truly be able to develop a different lifestyle and bring about significant changes in society. (LS, 208)*





## SDG Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.

### OBSERVE:

Diseases in the developed world that are not fatal and seem rare or controlled, are taking the lives of thousands of people in other parts of the world too. Pharmaceutical companies make medicine more expensive or simply do not research if they are effective. More than 50,000 girls die each year from early pregnancies, the global maternal mortality rate was 216 deaths per 100,000 births. We will need some guidepost to see the urgency of personal conversion and in systems that will truly sustain us.

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: To know the urgent need for conversion. The Ninevites abandon their errant ways (Jon 3,1).
- This generation will be given no sign other than the sign of Jonah (Lk 11,29).

**ACT:** *Lord Jesus you were made poor to enrich us in Your poverty, hear our prayer.  
Because of the cold of the manger and Christmas night,  
remember those who do not have a dignified dwelling.  
Because of the fear and insecurity of fleeing to Egypt,  
remember immigrants and refugees.  
For the years of poverty lived in Nazareth,  
Remember so many men and women who don't earn enough money to support  
their families.  
Because of the pain you caused Mary and Joseph when you stayed in the temple,  
remember the parents whose children have been lost through evil.  
Because of the violence, injustice, hypocrisy, hatred of which you had been an  
innocent victim,  
make us understand the beatitudes of gentleness,  
justice, mercy and peace.  
Because of the horrific hours on Calvary, remember those who lie ill and poor on  
their bed of pain.  
Through the intercession of Mary, Your Mother, who sang the beauty of Providence  
in the humble and hungry, help us to overcome our insensitivity and indifference.  
May all people who are poor experience your grace through us, your disciples of  
the Risen One, that your promise is fulfilled: "I will always be with you.  
Amen.*

(Franciscan Sisters of Divine Providence)





## SDG Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.

### OBSERVE:

Life expectancy in many countries is not 82 years as it is in Spain. So many children die in the first years of life. Many children lack medical care which can lead to the development of diseases; the mortality rates are scandalous. On the other hand, because of forced migration and the situation of children, 24 people per minute are forced to leave their homes. 39,000 girls a day are forced into marriage against their will.

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: To renew faith through prayer. I have no defender other than you (Est 4,17).
- Everyone who asks, receives (Mt 7,7).

**ACT:** *Every time someone dies,  
We all die a little bit, we feel the strike  
of the withdrawn heart that grows hard in the face of danger  
and between shivers rebirths the perpetual spring with its lofty rebellions.  
We feel without feeling,  
fabulously sweet, painfully true.  
We feel as one-- we. Our heart beats as one.*

(Gabriel Celaya)





## SDG GOAL 4: To ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

### OBSERVE:

*"Yet this education, aimed at creating an "ecological citizenship", is at times limited to providing information, and fails to instill good habits. The existence of laws and regulations is insufficient in the long run to curb bad conduct, even when effective means of enforcement are present. If the laws are to bring about significant, long-lasting effects, the majority of the members of society must be adequately motivated to accept them, and personally transformed to respond. Only by cultivating sound virtues will people be able to make a selfless ecological commitment. A person who could afford to spend and consume more but regularly uses less heating and wears warmer clothes, shows the kind of convictions and attitudes which help to protect the environment." (LS, 211)*

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: To be reconciled with God and with our brothers and sisters. Do I want the death of the wicked man and not for him to convert from his sins and live? (Ez 18,21).
- Go first to be reconciled with your brother (Mt 5,20).

### ACT:

*"There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions, and it is wonderful how education can bring about real changes in lifestyle. Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us, such as avoiding the use of plastic and paper, reducing water consumption, separating refuse, cooking only what can reasonably be consumed, showing care for other living beings, using public transport or car-pooling, planting trees, turning off unnecessary lights, or any number of other practices. All of these reflect a generous and worthy creativity which brings out the best in human beings. Reusing something instead of immediately discarding it, when done for the right reasons, can be an act of love which expresses our own dignity." (LS, 211)*







## SDG GOAL 4: To ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

### OBSERVE:

*"Ecological education can take place in a variety of settings: at school, in families, in the media, in catechesis and elsewhere. Good education plants seed when we are young, and these continue to bear fruit throughout life. Here, though, I would stress the great importance of the family, which is "the place in which life – the gift of God – can be properly welcomed and protected against the many attacks to which it is exposed and can develop in accordance with what constitutes authentic human growth. In the face of the so-called culture of death, the family is the heart of the culture of life". LS 213, [Centesimus Annus 39]*

263 million children and young people do not attend school. Here is an example: "Hello, my name is Mary. I live in the garbage dump of Cobán, a city in northern Guatemala. My parents recycle garbage from trucks coming from the city. The sons and daughters of the families who lived in the dump also have to pick up the garbage, but today thanks to *Comunidad Esperanza*, we can go to school and eat.

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: To be constant to your call. You will be the holy people of the Lord, your God (Dt 26,16).
- Be perfect like your heavenly Father (Mt 5,43).

### ACT:

*"In the face of the so-called culture of death, the family is the heart of the culture of life". In the family we first learn how to show love and respect for life; we are taught the proper use of things, order and cleanliness, respect for the local ecosystem and care for all creatures. In the family we receive an integral education, which enables us to grow harmoniously in personal maturity. In the family we learn to ask without demanding, to say "thank you" as an expression of genuine gratitude for what we have been given, to control our aggressivity and greed, and to ask forgiveness when we have caused harm. These simple gestures of heartfelt courtesy help to create a culture of shared life and respect for our surroundings. (LS, 213)*





## SDG GOAL 4: To ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

### OBSERVE:

*"An awareness of the gravity of today's cultural and ecological crisis must be translated into new habits. Many people know that our current progress and the mere amassing of things and pleasures are not enough to give meaning and joy to the human heart, yet they feel unable to give up what the market sets before them. In those countries which should be making the greatest changes in consumer habits, young people have a new ecological sensitivity and a generous spirit, and some of them are making admirable efforts to protect the environment. At the same time, they have grown up in a milieu of extreme consumerism and affluence which makes it difficult to develop other habits. We are faced with an educational challenge." (LS, 209).*

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- God began a faithful covenant with Abraham (Gen 15,5).
- While Jesus was praying, the appearance of his face changed (Lk 9,28).

### ACT:

Between 2003 and 2009, the Taliban, who dominated the territory where Malala lived, prohibited girls from receiving an education, claiming that women should be relegated to the domestic work. Malala wrote on the Internet defending everyone's right to education: "My dream is that all children can go to school. When she was on the bus to school on 9 October 2012, a Taliban militiaman stopped the bus and violently boarded it with the intention of murdering Malala. He fired his gun repeatedly at her, but Malala miraculously survived. Sometime later she received the Nobel Peace Prize. We are inspired by her advice: "If you are afraid, you cannot move forward".







## SDG Goal 5: Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.

### OBSERVE:

Two out of ten Spaniards have paid for sexual services this past year; 10% of these men suspected the trafficking of women/girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation. This is the data from the report by the Pontifical University of Comillas for the Government Delegation for Gender Violence. Intimidation and threats from people in organized crime, lack of awareness among clients and ignorance of society and professionals are just some of the factors that make it difficult to eradicate the problem of the trafficking of women/girls that still seems invisible.

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: To forgive as God forgives us. We have sinned, we have committed transgressions (Dan 9,4).
- Forgive and you will be forgiven (Lk 6,36).

### ACT:

PROJECT HOPE is the response of the Congregation of Adorers to the problem of trafficking of women in Spain. Since 1999 they have developed an integrated support program for female victims of human trafficking for the purpose of exploitation mainly in prostitution and but also in domestic service, servile marriages, forced labor or other conditions of slavery. The Project has a multidisciplinary team of professionals--lawyers, educators, social workers, mediators, psychologists-- who consider human trafficking a violation of human rights.

For more information, see [http://www. Proyectoesperanza.org/que-hacemos/](http://www.Proyectoesperanza.org/que-hacemos/)





## SDG Goal 5: Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.

### OBSERVE:

The violence suffered by women and girls from their parents and family partners makes them very vulnerable. In the sexual hierarchy of patriarchal societies, power, control and money are male attributes. Thus, many of the jobs that women do pay less than men, in some cases up to 20% less. Instability is another factor in work for females. Poverty is increasingly feminized.

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- The Lord God will give him the throne of David, his father (2 Sam 7,4).
- Joseph did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him (Mt 1,16).

**ACT:** *Mary,  
you were a peasant woman and laborer,  
born in a settlement  
and martyred by legalism and hypocrisy:  
on this feast day of your husband, St. Joseph,  
teach us to know sincerely the Gospel of Jesus  
and to translate it into life  
with all its revolutionary consequences,  
in the radical spirit of the Beatitudes,  
and in the total danger of that Beloved One  
who knows how to give his life for those he loves. Amen. (P. Casaldàliga)*







## SDG Goal 5: Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.

### OBSERVE:

In many professions and institutions, there are many more women than men, but the managerial jobs and the top positions are occupied mainly by men (in universities, doctors, judges, politics, in the Church). This century will be that of women. Evidence of this has been women's presence with the street marches on March 8. Not to see this uproar for equality, is to be very short-sighted.

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: To accompany Christ in his Passion. Come, let us speak ill of him (Jer 18,18).
- He will be condemned to death (Mt 20,17).

**ACT:** *At that time, as in all times,  
a man's prestige is measured by the number of trophies collected  
although it wasn't always mandatory that they be of the opposite sex.  
He who deceived a thousand was worth more than a thousand  
and the money was worth as much as the number of deceptions put into it.  
They say a man with a gun was a real man.  
Men were better than adolescents and fathered more children.  
then the rebel came and said:  
Blessed are the pure in heart.*  
(J.L. Martín Descalzo)







## SDG Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

### OBSERVE:

*"Fresh drinking water is an issue of primary importance, since it is indispensable for human life and for supporting the earth and sea's ecosystems. Sources of fresh water are necessary for health care, agriculture and industry. Water supplies used to be relatively constant, but now in many places demand exceeds the sustainable supply. This shortage has dramatic consequences in the short and long term. Large cities dependent on significant supplies of water have experienced periods of shortage, and at critical moments these have not always been administered with sufficient oversight and impartiality. Water poverty especially affects Africa where large sectors of the population have no access to safe drinking water or experience droughts which impede agricultural production. Some countries have areas rich in water while others endure drastic scarcity." (LS, 28)*

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: To trusting in true values. Cursed is he who trusts in humans, blessed is he who trusts in the Lord (Jer 17,5).
- You received good things and Lazarus evil: now he is consoled here, while you are tormented (Lk 16,19).

### ACT:

*How long has it been since it rained, my God, in my dry heart! The horizon is fiercely naked; neither the thinnest vapor of the softest cloud, nor the vaguest indication of the freshest distant shower.*

*Send your furious storm, black and deadly, if you will, and startle the sky from side to side, with bolts of your lightning!*

*Lord, gather and call to Yourself this silent heat that penetrates everything, soundless and cruel; this terrible heat that burns hope into the heart!*

*May the cloud of grace descend and bow before me, like the weeping gaze of a mother: the day of paternal anger! (R. Tagore)*





## **SDG Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.**

### **OBSERVE:**

*"One particularly serious problem is the quality of water available to the poor. Every day, unsafe water results in many deaths and the spread of water-related diseases, including those caused by microorganisms and chemical substances. Dysentery and cholera, linked to inadequate hygiene and water supplies, are a significant cause of suffering and of infant mortality. Underground water sources in many places are threatened by the pollution produced in certain mining, farming and industrial activities, especially in countries lacking adequate regulation or controls. It is not only a question of industrial waste. Detergents and chemical products, commonly used in many places of the world, continue to pour into our rivers, lakes and seas." (LS, 29)*

### **READINGS OF THE DAY**

- Lent: To welcome the kingdom and not reject the one sent. Here comes the dreamer, we are going to kill him (Gen 37,3).
- This is the heir: come, we will kill him (Mt 21,33).

### **ACT: WATER HAS NO COLOR.**

There are no races, there is no color / there is only wheat, there is only love; / and the same sun that you and I see / belongs to everyone and belongs to God.

When one feeds you/ and hands you water to drink, / receive it: his skin color matters not, he gives to you in good faith.

**WE ALL EAT THE SAME BREAD/ WE ALL SEEK GOD. / WE ALL DRINK FROM A SPRING/ AND THE WATER HAS NO COLOR.**

When the sun rises on the sea / when one begins to sow, / I look at you, you look at me / and we drink freedom / And, if you look for a roof and a home, / and someone gives it to you / Receive it: what does its color matter, / it is given to you from the heart.

(J.C. Calderón)







## SDG Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

### OBSERVE:

*"Greater scarcity of water will lead to an increase in the cost of food and the various products which depend on its use. Some studies warn that an acute water shortage may occur within a few decades unless urgent action is taken. The environmental repercussions could affect billions of people; it is also conceivable that the control of water by large multinational businesses may become a major source of conflict in this century." (LS, 31)*

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: Rise up and return to the Father. He will cast our sins into the depths of the sea (Mic 7,14).
- This brother of yours was dead and has revived (Lk 15,1).

### ACT:

*Nature has produced all things for the common good for all.*

*God commanded that all should be begotten and nourished. This common good is for all and the earth belongs to all.*

*Nature gave birth to a common right, but abuse created private law.*

*The world has been created for all, but a few rich people make an effort to exploit it for themselves.*

*The pagans believed that the system of justice consisted in having common things, that is, the public things as public, and the private ones as their own.*

*But this is not according to nature, for nature gave all things to everybody in common.*

*(De officiis ministrorum. St. Ambrose)*





## **SDG Goal 7: To ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.**

### **OBSERVE:**

*"The basic problem goes even deeper: it is the way that humanity has taken up technology and its development according to an undifferentiated and one-dimensional paradigm. It is as if the subject were to find itself in the presence of something formless, completely open to manipulation. Men and women have constantly intervened in nature, but for a long time this meant being in tune with and respecting the possibilities offered by the things themselves. It was a matter of receiving what nature itself allowed, as if from its own hand. Now, by contrast, we are the ones to lay our hands on things, attempting to extract everything possible from them while frequently ignoring or forgetting the reality in front of us. Human beings and material objects no longer extend a friendly hand to one another; the relationship has become confrontational. This has made it easy to accept the idea of infinite or unlimited growth, which proves so attractive to economists, financiers and experts in technology. It is based on the lie that there is an infinite supply of the earth's goods, and this leads to the planet being squeezed dry beyond every limit. It is the false notion that "an infinite quantity of energy and resources are available, that it is possible to renew them quickly, and that the negative effects of the exploitation of the natural order can be easily absorbed". (LS, 106)*

### **READINGS OF THE DAY**

- "I am" sends me to you (Ex 3,1).
- If you do not convert, you will all perish in the same way (Lk 13,1).

**ACT:** *We will need two worlds to supply all our needs.*

*Look at your wardrobe and you will understand that you have too many clothes, shoes...*

*take a look at your table or shelf, how many files and books you do not use, how much you travel by car, how much gasoline.*

*It's not so much about growing, but about simplifying.*

*Energy and nature have a limit--help renew them. You too could be transformed. Jesus tells us today: if you do not have a change of heart, you will all perish in the same way.*







## SDG Goal 7: To ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

### OBSERVE:

*"For poor countries, the priorities must be to eliminate extreme poverty and to promote the social development of their people. At the same time, they need to acknowledge the scandalous level of consumption in some privileged sectors of their population and to combat corruption more effectively. They are likewise bound to develop less polluting forms of energy production, but to do so they require the help of countries which have experienced great growth at the cost of the ongoing pollution of the planet. Taking advantage of abundant solar energy will require the establishment of mechanisms and subsidies which allow developing countries access to technology transfer, technical assistance and financial resources, but in a way, which respects their concrete situations, since "the compatibility of [infrastructures] with the context for which they have been designed is not always adequately assessed". The costs of this would be low, compared to the risks of climate change. In any event, these are primarily ethical decisions, rooted in solidarity between all peoples." (LS, 172)*

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Behold, the virgin is with child (Is 7,10).
- You shall conceive in your womb and bear a son (Lk 1,26).

### ACT:

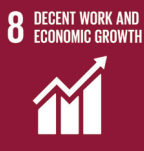
**Lifestyle:** Live with austerity and responsible consumption. What changes do we have to make in our lives in the areas of: home, clothing, food, media (Internet, TV, cell phone), transportation, outings, meetings, leisure, cars, travel, Fair Trade, recycling, ecology?

**Solidarity:** What are we willing to share with others? Our time, money, concrete actions? Which organizations, NGOs, collectives and platforms are we willing to support or participate in? How do we raise awareness in the parish community, the school community of all of this?

**Economy:** How do we specify the above in our Community Budgets? Examine the various categories and specify what must be reduced or increased. Consider investing in Ethical Banking.







## SDG Goal 8: To promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

### OBSERVE:

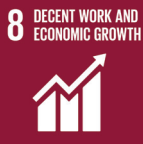
*"We were created with a vocation to work. The goal should not be that technological progress increasingly replace human work, for this would be detrimental to humanity. Work is a necessity, part of the meaning of life on this earth, a path to growth, human development and personal fulfilment. Helping the poor financially must always be a provisional solution in the face of pressing needs. The broader objective should always be to allow them a dignified life through work. Yet the orientation of the economy has favoured a kind of technological progress in which the costs of production are reduced by laying off workers and replacing them with machines. This is yet another way in which we can end up working against ourselves. The loss of jobs also has a negative impact on the economy "through the progressive erosion of social capital: the network of relationships of trust, dependability, and respect for rules, all of which are indispensable for any form of civil coexistence". In other words, "human costs always include economic costs, and economic dysfunctions always involve human costs". To stop investing in people, in order to gain greater short-term financial gain, is bad business for society." (LS, 128)*

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: God's compassion invites forgiveness. Accept our contrite heart and our humble spirit (Dan 3,25).
- If you do not forgive his brother, neither will the Father forgive you (Mt 18,21).

**ACT:** *Lord Jesus, I am a worker,  
I am a man who for a piece of bread  
has to sell his dignity and freedom  
I am condemned to become an object  
who performs the same actions day after day  
I am a machine.  
I am tired of my slavery  
monotonous, daily  
in order to be able to play in peace with my children  
and to embrace my wife serenely and with dignity  
A slave at work, sometimes I am a tyrant in my free time.*





## SDG Goal 8: To promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

### OBSERVE:

"We are convinced that "man is the source, the focus and the aim of all economic and social life". Nonetheless, once our human capacity for contemplation and reverence is impaired, it becomes easy for the meaning of work to be misunderstood. We need to remember that men and women have "the capacity to improve their lot, to further their moral growth and to develop their spiritual endowments". Work should be the setting for this rich personal growth, where many aspects of life enter into play: creativity, planning for the future, developing our talents, living out our values, relating to others, giving glory to God. It follows that, in the reality of today's global society, it is essential that "we continue to prioritize the goal of access to steady employment for everyone", no matter the limited interests of business and dubious economic reasoning." (LS, 127).

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: To remember God's law and observe it. Observe the commandments and keep them (Dt 4,1).
- Whoever keeps them and teaches them will be great (Mt 5,17).

**ACT:** *You are the God of the people who are poor  
the human God; the simple God,  
the God who sweats in the street, the tanned-faced God.  
That is why I'm talking to you,  
as my people speak,  
because you are God the laborer,  
the Christ the worker. (Ernesto Cardenal: Peasant Mass)*







## SDG Goal 9: **Build resilient infrastructures, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and encourage innovation.**

### OBSERVE:

*"Their attempts to move to other, more diversified, means of production prove fruitless because of the difficulty of linkage with regional and global markets, or because the infrastructure for sales and transport is geared to larger businesses. Civil authorities have the right and duty to adopt clear and firm measures in support of small producers and differentiated production. To ensure economic freedom from which all can effectively benefit, restraints occasionally have to be imposed on those possessing greater resources and financial power. To claim economic freedom while real conditions bar many people from actual access to it, and while possibilities for employment continue to shrink, is to practice a doublespeak which brings politics into disrepute. Business is a noble vocation, directed to producing wealth and improving our world. It can be a fruitful source of prosperity for the areas in which it operates, especially if it sees the creation of jobs as an essential part of its service to the common good."* (LS, 129)

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: To watch so as not to close oneself to salvation. These are the people who do not listen to the voice of the Lord, their God (Jer 7,23).
- He who is not with me is against me (Lk 11,14).

### ACT:

*"There is a great variety of small-scale food production systems which feed the greater part of the world's peoples, using a modest amount of land and producing less waste, be it in small agricultural parcels, in orchards and gardens, hunting and wild harvesting or local fishing. Economies of scale, especially in the agricultural sector, end up forcing small-holders to sell their land or to abandon their traditional crops. Their attempts to move to other, more diversified, means of production prove fruitless because of the difficulty of linkage with regional and global markets, or because the infrastructure for sales and transport is geared to larger businesses."* (LS, 129)





## SDG Goal 9: **Build resilient infrastructures, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and encourage innovation.**

### OBSERVE:

*"The same mindset which stands in the way of making radical decisions to reverse the trend of global warming also stands in the way of achieving the goal of eliminating poverty. A more responsible overall approach is needed to deal with both problems: the reduction of pollution and the development of poorer countries and regions. The twenty-first century, while maintaining systems of governance inherited from the past, is witnessing a weakening of the power of nation states, chiefly because the economic and financial sectors, being transnational, tends to prevail over the political. Given this situation, it is essential to devise stronger and more efficiently organized international institutions, with functionaries who are appointed fairly by agreement among national governments and empowered to impose sanctions." (LS, 175)*

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: To love God above all things. Return to the Lord your God (Hos 14,2).
- The Lord our God is the only Lord, and you shall love him. (Mk 12,28).

**ACT:** *The hymn of the Liturgy of the Hours says it beautifully:*

*You pointed out to us a part of the vineyard  
and you said, "Come and work."*

*You showed us an empty table  
and you said, "Fill it with bread."*

*You presented us with a battlefield  
and you said, "Build peace."*

*You took us out into the desert at dawn  
and you said, "Raise the city."*

*You put a tool in our hands  
and you said, "It's time to create."*







## SDG Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.

### OBSERVE:

*"Inequity affects not only individuals but entire countries; it compels us to consider an ethics of international relations. A true "ecological debt" exists, particularly between the global north and south, connected to commercial imbalances with effects on the environment, and the disproportionate use of natural resources by certain countries over long periods of time. The export of raw materials to satisfy markets in the industrialized north has caused harm locally, as for example in mercury pollution in gold mining or Sulphur dioxide pollution in copper mining. There is a pressing need to calculate the use of environmental space throughout the world for depositing gas residues which have been accumulating for two centuries and have created a situation which currently affects all the countries of the world. The warming caused by huge consumption on the part of some rich countries has repercussions on the poorest areas of the world, especially Africa, where a rise in temperature, together with drought, has proved devastating for farming. There is also the damage caused by the export of solid waste and toxic liquids to developing countries, and by the pollution produced by companies which operate in less developed countries in ways they could never do at home, in the countries in which they raise their capital: "We note that often the businesses which operate this way are multinationals. They do here what they would never do in developed countries or the so-called first world. Generally, after ceasing their activity and withdrawing, they leave behind great human and environmental liabilities such as unemployment, abandoned towns, the depletion of natural reserves, deforestation, the impoverishment of agriculture and local stock breeding, open pits, riven hills, polluted rivers and a handful of social works which are no longer sustainable". (LS, 51)*

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: To present to the Lord a humble heart as a sacrifice. I want mercy and not sacrifice (Hos 6,1).
- The publican went down to his house justified, and the Pharisee did not (Lk 18,9).

**ACT:** *"Love and Solidarity among Men"*  
 Lord, we have heard your word  
 and we have meditated on it in our hearts.  
 We have shared your bread,  
 your generosity and your love without limits.  
 And we have understood that this world,  
 the one we've been making,  
 is not the same one you created and  
 dreamed for us.  
 You did not want wars, and yet we fight them;  
 You did not want poor people, and we yet  
 there are more and more every year,  
 and you did not want hunger,  
 thirst, pain, tears, nor death.  
 And yet we are still determined to keep them.

*We ask You, Lord, for another miracle.  
 We do not ask you to multiply the bread  
 and the fish,  
 but to increase love and solidarity among all  
 So that we are not indifferent to hunger,  
 or the tears and cries of those who suffer,  
 So that we do not turn our backs  
 in the face of the evil of others,  
 So that we don't selfishly hoard  
 when others need us,  
 but let us join with everyone,  
 each other, up or down, east or west,  
 in a definitive fight  
 for justice, equality and fraternity.*

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



## SDG Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and between countries.

### OBSERVE:

*"The foreign debt of poor countries has become a way of controlling them, yet this is not the case where ecological debt is concerned. In different ways, developing countries, where the most important reserves of the biosphere are found, continue to fuel the development of richer countries at the cost of their own present and future. The land of the southern poor is rich and mostly unpolluted, yet access to ownership of goods and resources for meeting vital needs is inhibited by a system of commercial relations and ownership which is structurally perverse. The developed countries ought to help pay this debt by significantly limiting their consumption of non-renewable energy and by assisting poorer countries to support policies and programmes of sustainable development. The poorest areas and countries are less capable of adopting new models for reducing environmental impact because they lack the wherewithal to develop the necessary processes and to cover their costs. We must continue to be aware that, regarding climate change, there are differentiated responsibilities. As the United States bishops have said, greater attention must be given to "the needs of the poor, the weak and the vulnerable, in a debate often dominated by more powerful interests". We 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)*

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- After entering the Promised Land, the people of God celebrate the Passover (Jos 5,9).
- This brother of yours was dead and has come to life again (Lk 15,1).

### ACT:

Martin Luther King was an evangelical Christian, a Baptist pastor, who became famous in the United States for defending the rights black citizens and for fighting racism. He was murdered in 1968. He is famous for his 1963 Washington speech, "I Have a Dream," which helps us vision and pray:

*"I dream that one day, in the red hills of Georgia, the children of former slaves and the children of former slave owners may sit together at the table of brotherhood.*

*I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.*

*I dream that one day black children will be able to join hands with white children and walk together as brothers and sisters.*

*This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope."*





## SDG Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

### OBSERVE:

*"Nowadays, for example, we are conscious of the disproportionate and unruly growth of many cities, which have become unhealthy to live in, not only because of pollution caused by toxic emissions but also as a result of urban chaos, poor transportation, and visual pollution and noise. Many cities are huge, inefficient structures, excessively wasteful of energy and water. Neighborhoods, even those recently built, are congested, chaotic and lacking in sufficient green space." (LS, 44)*

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: To welcome life. There will be no more weeping or groaning (Is 65,17).
- Go, your son lives (Jn 4,43).

**ACT:** *Am I not a mystic because I sing on the fringes?  
And I sing on the fringes because I see Christ there.  
Am I not a mystic because I always laugh?  
And I always laugh, what do I care about laughing?  
I cannot pick the flowers,  
I freeze when people cry for the sun.  
We do not know how lyrical we are,  
especially the one who begs with his head held high,  
Nobody knows how the Lord feels.  
While threading the needle, working the mine, the sickle,  
I plunge into spiritual depths  
composing a poem on the periphery,  
In the dark, the vine enlightens me  
that to laugh is mystical.*

(Gloria Fuertes)





## **SDG Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.**

### **OBSERVE:**

*"In some places, rural and urban alike, the privatization of certain spaces has restricted people's access to places of particular beauty. In others, "ecological" neighbourhoods have been created which are closed to outsiders in order to ensure an artificial tranquility. Frequently, we find beautiful and carefully manicured green spaces in so-called "safer" areas of cities, but not in the more hidden areas where the disposable of society live." (LS, 45)*

### **READINGS OF THE DAY**

- Lent: To remember life-giving and healing water. I saw water flowing from the temple and there will be life where the torrent comes (Ez 47,1).
- At that moment the man was healed (Jn 5,1).

**ACT:** *Take me through your ways of peace and justice,  
through your weighty solidarity and humanity,  
through your highways of freedom and dignity,  
in your fields of austerity and poverty,  
through your paths of utopia and novelty  
and, if necessary, we will follow across the fields in your footsteps.  
and the majestic road of compassion and mercy.  
And so, when I arrive at the doorstep,  
I can be refreshed at the threshold,  
to hear your voice calling me inside  
to eat and drink with you  
and feel like a son and a brother at the banquet  
prepared by you and your friends.  
And then go out,  
with renewed energy and hope to prepare your ways.*







## SDG Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

### OBSERVE:

*"A change in lifestyle could bring healthy pressure to bear on those who wield political, economic and social power. This is what consumer movements accomplish by boycotting certain products. They prove successful in changing the way businesses operate, forcing them to consider their environmental footprint and their patterns of production. When social pressure affects their earnings, businesses clearly have to find ways to produce differently. This shows us the great need for a sense of social responsibility on the part of consumers. "Purchasing is always a moral – and not simply economic – act". Today, in a word, "the issue of environmental degradation challenges us to examine our lifestyle". (LS, 206)*

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: To listen to the Son and to believe in the Father is to obtain light and life. I have made you the covenant of the people to restore the country (Is 49,8).
- Just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to those he wants (Jn 5,17).

### ACT:

*"Political institutions and various other social groups are also entrusted with helping to raise people's awareness. So too is the Church. All Christian communities have an important role to play in ecological education. It is my hope that our seminaries and houses of formation will provide an education in responsible simplicity of life, in grateful contemplation of God's world, and in concern for the needs of the poor and the protection of the environment. Because the stakes are so high, we need institutions empowered to impose penalties for damage inflicted on the environment. But we also need the personal qualities of self-control and willingness to learn from one another." (LS, 214)*







## SDG Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

### OBSERVE:

*"Given the real potential for a misuse of human abilities, individual states can no longer ignore their responsibility for planning, coordination, oversight and enforcement within their respective borders. How can a society plan and protect its future amid constantly developing technological innovations? One authoritative source of oversight and coordination is the law, which lays down rules for admissible conduct in the light of the common good. The limits which a healthy, mature and sovereign society must impose are those related to foresight and security, regulatory norms, timely enforcement, the elimination of corruption, effective responses to undesired side-effects of production processes, and appropriate intervention where potential or uncertain risks are involved. There is a growing jurisprudence dealing with the reduction of pollution by business activities. But political and institutional frameworks do not exist simply to avoid bad practice, but also to promote best practice, to stimulate creativity in seeking new solutions and to encourage individual or group initiatives." (LS, 177)*

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: To repent of our sins. Repent of the threat against your people (Ex 32,7).
- There is one who accuses you: Moses, in whom you have hope (Jn 5,31).

### ACT:

*"«The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast.» For this reason, the ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion. It must be said that some committed and prayerful Christians, with the excuse of realism and pragmatism, tend to ridicule expressions of concern for the environment. Others are passive; they choose not to change their habits and thus become inconsistent. So, what they all need is an "ecological conversion", whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience." (LS 217)*







## SDG Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

### OBSERVE:

*"Some forms of pollution are part of people's daily experience. Exposure to atmospheric pollutants produces a broad spectrum of health hazards, especially for the poor, and causes millions of premature deaths. People take sick, for example, from breathing high levels of smoke from fuels used in cooking or heating. There is also pollution that affects everyone, caused by transport, industrial fumes, substances which contribute to the acidification of soil and water, fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides, herbicides and agrotoxins in general. Technology, which, linked to business interests, is presented as the only way of solving these problems, in fact proves incapable of seeing the mysterious network of relations between things and so sometimes solves one problem only to create others." (LS, 20)*

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: To choose the way of the just, the persecuted One or the way of the persecutors. We will condemn him to an ignominious death (Wisdom 2,1).
- They tried to take him, but his hour had not yet come (Jn 7,1).

**ACT:** *Because of those who respect nature and the climate, we live today we breathe air, not gases.  
For them and for us  
we will follow their footsteps,  
so that our children will breathe pure air  
and they will reach the land of the living with us  
where only those who have given their lives will live  
and with those who have cared for the creation that God has given us.*





## SDG Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

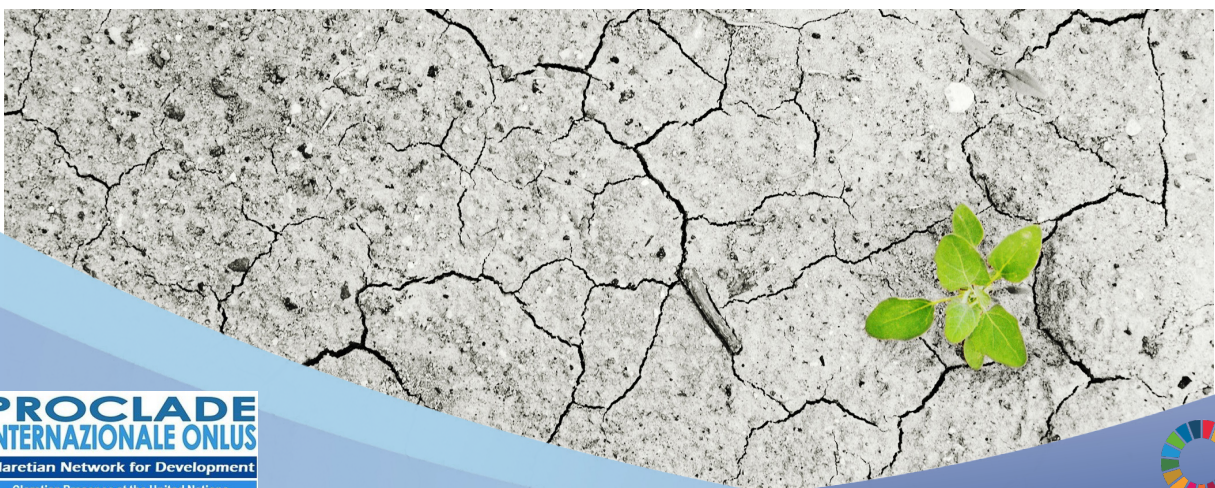
### OBSERVE:

*"These problems are closely linked to a throwaway culture which affects the excluded just as it quickly reduces things to rubbish. To cite one example, most of the paper we produce is thrown away and not recycled. It is hard for us to accept that the way natural ecosystems work is exemplary: plants synthesize nutrients which feed herbivores; these in turn become food for carnivores, which produce significant quantities of organic waste which give rise to new generations of plants. But our industrial system, at the end of its cycle of production and consumption, has not developed the capacity to absorb and reuse waste and by-products. We have not yet managed to adopt a circular model of production capable of preserving resources for present and future generations, while limiting as much as possible the use of non-renewable resources, moderating their consumption, maximizing their efficient use, reusing and recycling them. A serious consideration of this issue would be one way of counteracting the throwaway culture which affects the entire planet, but it must be said that only limited progress has been made in this regard." (LS, 22)*

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: What do we say about Jesus? I, like a meek lamb, was led to the slaughter (Jer 11,18).
- Will the Messiah come from Galilee? (Jn 7,40).

**ACT:** *You gave us trees and forests  
and we cut them down.  
You gave spring to the birds and rivers to the fish,  
and yet we do nothing but pollute them  
with industrial waste.  
Spring becomes a love affair  
but the rivers are empty, and the air is polluted.  
You gave us the harmony of creation  
and we have abused her.  
and we are headed for ruin.  
(Moltmann)*







## SDG Goal 14: To conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

### OBSERVE:

"Some countries have made significant progress in establishing sanctuaries on land and in the oceans where any human intervention is prohibited which might modify their features or alter their original structures. In the protection of biodiversity, specialists insist on the need for particular attention to be shown to areas richer both in the number of species and in endemic, rare or less protected species. Certain places need greater protection because of their immense importance for the global ecosystem, or because they represent important water reserves and thus safeguard other forms of life." (LS, 37)

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Behold, I accomplish something new; I will give my people drink (Is 43,16).
- The one who is without sin, let them throw the first stone (Jn 8,1).

**ACT:** *When swimming, avoid the rough waters of the sea:  
floating is better than swimming in steadfast waves, in strong waves,  
in the immense blue waves  
to join with other huge blue wave-- to the heavens.  
So it is with your hand.  
As with the sea, your hand is  
open, infinite, unlimited,  
holds my body peacefully.  
You are the sea. The sea is you.  
The wave is your hand; the hand is your wave.*  
(Carmen Conde)





## SDG Goal 14: To conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

### OBSERVE:

*"Oceans not only contain the bulk of our planet's water supply, but also most of the immense variety of living creatures, many of them still unknown to us and threatened for various reasons. What is more, marine life in rivers, lakes, seas and oceans, which feeds a great part of the world's population, is affected by uncontrolled fishing, leading to a drastic depletion of certain species. Selective forms of fishing which discard much of what they collect continue unabated. Particularly threatened are marine organisms which we tend to overlook, like some forms of plankton; they represent a significant element in the ocean food chain, and species used for our food ultimately depend on them." (LS, 40)*

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: God saves, God does not condemn. Now I have to die, being innocent (Dn 13,1).
- I am the light of the world (Jn 8,12).

### ACT:

*"Greater investment needs to be made in research aimed at understanding more fully the functioning of ecosystems and adequately analyzing the different variables associated with any significant modification of the environment. Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another. Each area is responsible for the care of this family. This will require undertaking a careful inventory of the species which it hosts, with a view to developing programmes and strategies of protection with particular care for safeguarding species heading towards extinction." (LS, 42)*







## SDG Goal 15: **Protect, restore and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.**

### OBSERVE:

*"Let us mention, for example, those richly biodiverse lungs of our planet which are the Amazon and the Congo basins, or the great aquifers and glaciers. We know how important these are for the entire earth and for the future of humanity. The ecosystems of tropical forests possess an enormously complex biodiversity which is almost impossible to appreciate fully, yet when these forests are burned down or levelled for purposes of cultivation, within the space of a few years countless species are lost and the areas frequently become arid wastelands. A delicate balance has to be maintained when speaking about these places, for we cannot overlook the huge global economic interests which, under the guise of protecting them, can undermine the sovereignty of individual nations. In fact, there are "proposals to internationalize the Amazon, which only serve the economic interests of transnational corporations". (LS, 38)*

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: To gaze at the crucified is to live. The bite of serpents will be healed when they look at the bronze serpent (Num 21,4).
- When you lift up the Son of Man, you will know that "I am" (Jn 8,21).

### ACT:

Let us support these tasks: *"We cannot fail to praise the commitment of international agencies and civil society organizations which draw public attention to these issues and offer critical cooperation, employing legitimate means of pressure, to ensure that each government carries out its proper and inalienable responsibility to preserve its country's environment and natural resources, without capitulating to spurious local or international interests."* (LS, 38)





## SDG Goal 15: **Protect, restore and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.**

### OBSERVE:

*"The replacement of virgin forest with plantations of trees, usually monocultures, is rarely adequately analyzed. Yet this can seriously compromise a biodiversity which the new species being introduced does not accommodate. Similarly, wetlands converted into cultivated land lose the enormous biodiversity which they formerly hosted. In some coastal areas the disappearance of ecosystems sustained by mangrove swamps is a source of serious concern." (LS, 39)*

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: Fidelity liberates. He sent an angel to save his servants (Dn 3,14).
- If the Son makes you free, you are truly free (Jn 8,31).

**ACT:** *Heavens of clouds and stars praise the Lord.  
Praise him, sun and moon, lights of day and night.  
Rains and snows, with countless layers, praise the Lord.  
Praise him, you wind that whistle in the mountains  
and tremble in sweet harmony.  
Sunlight and lightning, which fills festive space,  
praise the Lord.  
Praise him, high openings of the mountains.  
Fountains, that play musical scales at all hours,  
Praise the Lord.  
Praise him the seas and rivers, staves of light music.*  
(V. Arbeloa)







## SDG Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

### OBSERVE:

*"A politics concerned with immediate results, supported by consumerist sectors of the population, is driven to produce short-term growth. In response to electoral interests, governments are reluctant to upset the public with measures which could affect the level of consumption or create risks for foreign investment. The myopia of power politics delays the inclusion of a far-sighted environmental agenda within the overall agenda of governments. Thus, we forget that "time is greater than space", that we are always more effective when we generate processes rather than holding on to positions of power. True statecraft is manifest when, in difficult times, we uphold high principles and think of the long-term common good. Political powers do not find it easy to assume this duty in the work of nation-building." (LS, 178)*

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: To keep the word is to know life. You will be the father of a multitude of peoples (Gen 17,3).
- Abraham, your father, jumped for joy thinking he would see my day (Jn 8,51).

**ACT:** *Jesus, you have no hands  
You have only our hands to build  
a world where justice dwells.  
Jesus, you have no feet  
You have only our feet to set freedom and love in motion  
Jesus, you have no lips  
You have only our lips to announce  
to the world the Good News of the poor  
Jesus, you have no means  
You have only our action to make all people our brothers and sisters.  
Jesus, we are your Gospel,  
if our lives are effective words and deeds.  
the only Gospel that people can read.*





## SDG Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

### OBSERVE:

*"In some places, cooperatives are being developed to exploit renewable sources of energy which ensure local self-sufficiency and even the sale of surplus energy. This simple example shows that, while the existing world order proves powerless to assume its responsibilities, local individuals and groups can make a real difference. They are able to instill a greater sense of responsibility, a strong sense of community, a readiness to protect others, a spirit of creativity and a deep love for the land. They are also concerned about what they will eventually leave to their children and grandchildren. These values are deeply rooted in indigenous peoples. Because the enforcement of laws is at times inadequate due to corruption, public pressure has to be exerted in order to bring about decisive political action." (LS, 179)*

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: The Lord is with us. The Lord is my strong defender (Jer 20,10).
- They tried to stop him, but he slipped out of their hands (Jn 10,31).

### ACT:

*"Society, through non-governmental organizations and intermediate groups, must put pressure on governments to develop more rigorous regulations, procedures and controls. Unless citizens control political power – national, regional and municipal – it will not be possible to control damage to the environment. Local legislation can be more effective, too, if agreements exist between neighboring communities to support the same environmental policies." (LS, 179)*







## SDG Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

### OBSERVE:

*"Given this situation, it is essential to devise stronger and more efficiently organized international institutions, with functionaries who are appointed fairly by agreement among national governments and empowered to impose sanctions. As Benedict XVI has affirmed in continuity with the social teaching of the Church: "To manage the global economy; to revive economies hit by the crisis; to avoid any deterioration of the present crisis and the greater imbalances that would result; to bring about integral and timely disarmament, food security and peace; to guarantee the protection of the environment and to regulate migration: for all this, there is urgent need of a true world political authority, as my predecessor Blessed John XXIII indicated some years ago", Diplomacy also takes on new importance in the work of developing international strategies which can anticipate serious problems affecting us all." (LS, 175)*

### READINGS OF THE DAY

- Lent: To go with Jesus to Jerusalem to gather all people. I will make you one nation (Ez 37,21).
- To gather together the scattered children of God (Jn 11,45).

**ACT:** *They threw out the leftovers of the banquet,  
the remains of the feast, the crumbs.  
Conforming to the petty ration, you are smiling  
and quite content/ with the smile of the indifferent  
who sleep without remorse because they think,  
that the world is fine:  
this one above and that one below,  
in the middle a sea of dreams/ and an absent river without shores.  
A perfect balance. Everything/ must be in place  
The elite, bossing;  
The meek rotting and producing.  
At the top are the upper class  
full of the sweat of the innocent. (E. Ferreira)*





## **SDG Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.**

*"To ensure that developed countries fully implement their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to meet the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries and between 0.15 and 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to least developed countries; providers of official development assistance are encouraged to consider setting a target of at least 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to least developed countries." (Goal 17, Target 2)*

