



The care for the “common home” is a responsibility that we assume towards our neighbor and at the same time a way to recognize God’s infinite beauty and contemplate the mystery of the universe. Therefore, in order to awaken in every person the desire to contribute to realizing this duty, in the Encyclical “*Laudato Si’*” I recalled the example of St. Francis, who showed a particular respect for the creative work of God, considering it inseparable from attention towards the last and the abandoned (see LS, 10).

The recurring crisis and alarms tell us that this attention represents the challenge to respond to, in order to build and strengthen that sustainable and integral development, which can ensure an improvement in the quality of human life respectful of God’s plan on the world and in a healthy relationship with the order of nature and its governing laws.

This requires an education and spirituality for the «development of new convictions, attitudes and forms of life» (LS, 202) able to promote the desired “ecological conversion” that can only arise from the formation of consciences, inspired by the sharing of goods, by respect of the dignity of every person and by the gratuitousness of working and giving.

In order to make this effort visible and concrete, destined to change lifestyles, it is my intention to create a tangible model of thought, structure and action, that I call “Borgo Laudato Si’”. A forum for interaction and example of a change, this experience will take place in the endowments, annexes and dependences of the Pontifical Villas in Castel Gandolfo (see Lateran Treaty, attachment II, 5), without altering or changing in any way the overall nature of the property of the Holy See, as provided for by art. 14 of the Lateran Treaty (Attachment II, 4) and defined by the uses and different provisions set by my Venerable Predecessors.

In order to promote the life and works of the “Borgo Laudato Si’”, I am establishing the Laudato Si’ Higher Education Center as a scientific, educational and social activity body, which works for the integral formation, with its registered office in the Vatican City State and its operational location at the Pontifical Villas in Castel Gandolfo.

I establish that the Laudato Si’ Higher Education Center, pertaining to the Governorate of the Vatican City State, be governed by its own Statute, that I simultaneously approve and issue with this Chirograph. The Center will comply with the current legislation of the Vatican City State.

For its activities, the Laudato Si’ Higher Education Center will be endowed with patrimonial, technical, administrative, operational and financial autonomy, with its own budget, separate from the one of the Governorate, where it will be simply mentioned as a different budgetary item, absorbing gradually some of the responsibilities pertaining to the Directorate of the Pontifical Villas and making use of personnel employed by the Governorate there.

Placed under my own direct supervision, the Higher Education Center shall be administered by governing bodies I appoint, maintaining all necessary collaboration with the Governorate for their respective and specific competencies.

I entrust this work to Mary, Mother and Queen of all creation (LS, 241), and I trust that those who will work for it will always be aware of their ecclesial responsibility and will always carry it out with the necessary humility and spirit of dedication that must animate every service of the Church.

Vatican City, 2 February 2023
Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Francis