

Table Conversation Output

**The Francis Effect II
Sydney Colloquium – 27 October 2015**

How can we go forward from today and take action? What changes might be needed in our behaviours, language and practice?

What resources / networks are available to us?

What additional support might we need?

What **changes** might be needed to overcome the challenges and take up the opportunities?

What additional **resources and networks** are available to make this ecological conversion happen?

Group 1

- Living simply – when purchasing treat it like a moral act
- Talk to people about this conference
- Be counter cultural – support Laudato Si' in conversations even if tis not popular
- Buy a bench top composite bin (Apartment living)
- Sustainability Centre, Ball's Point Reserve community Gardens
- Usage of water – bucket in the shower
- Maintain what we have already – pot plants/herb garden
- Bring own shopping bags to supermarket
- Continue the recycling
- Litter – bin it! Or take it home
- Eco Examen
- Language
- Reflect on input today – reread Laudato Si'
- Signing the petitions – walking the walk
- North Sydney & Mosman Parishes presentation on Laudato Si' in November

Group 2

- Keep the cause alive in the workplace
- Remember and promote the importance of the small actions
- Purchasing anything is a moral action
- Conversation is a process – evolving doesn't happen in one go
- Generational time: don't expect instant results
- Support small and local business
- Build community relationships: inspired others (ripple effect)
- Share ideas, talk about the message
- Small changes make a difference
- Read Laudato Si' in small groups, break open, discuss
- It's doable!
- Clean out the wardrobe and kitchen
- Challenge the notion of shopping as recreational activity
- Start educating early (age)

Group 3

- Examine my present way of acting right across the board
- Encouraging myself and students to think critically about purchases – moral choice
- To encourage principals in primary/secondary schools to consider establishing a garden in their schools
- To ask support services to collaborate with our local parish
- In schools to run curriculum based activity which reflects the beauty of CREATION and the CREATOR (yr 7)

Group 4

- Changing Practice at home – water conservation, less plastic, worm/compost farms/ buying local products/recycling/car boot sales/op shop buy
- Build awareness in our communities – parish newsletters/website, encouragement
- Access agencies – Catholic Earthcare etc...
- Big learning – that little things/actions can make a difference and can also change/transform us
- Resources – funding available, videos/YouTube/educational materials, guest speakers, retreats, indigenous centres, Earthsong/Erin Earth/ The Archer

Group 5

- Parish Initiative – Bulletin
- Publish website
- Use short exercise from encyclical or Francis Effect II
- Haris Farm direct – bypassing supermarkets
- Change to green providers
- Changes from within the self
- Behavioural changes – regarding purchasing things
- “Moral decisions”
- Resources – St Francis – “Plant Trees”

Group 6

- Spread message
- Begin in family
- Education
- Begin with small things – save electricity, water, air conditioner or heater, only cook what is needed, use left over’s, pass on unused things and share
- Days of rest: to heal relationships, rest ourselves, take time to appreciate nature, beauty
- Let’s appreciate things that enable us to have a day of rest - e.g: easy meals, transport (stop frenetic activity)
- Helping as a group – e.g: Christmas hampers

Group 7

- Take this message back to parish
- Also partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander diocesan groups – Aboriginal Catholic Ministry at Broken Bay
- Best recycled paper – small actions e.g: turn off lights
- Paperless office – moving office allows this opportunity
- New office design that supports ecological measures
- Little incentive messages to encourage good environmental practice, in work communications
- Re-visioning of a future oriented approach to jobs: environ mentoring, managing land, power rather a defensive/protective approach

Personal

- Read *Laudato Si'* and reflect deeply on the key messages and share them with others – family, friends and colleagues.
- Seek like-minded people and share this journey of care for our common home.
- Talk to your parish community about starting a group to lighten up your footprint and promote environmental education.
- Host a program for small groups using *Catholic Earthcare's Encyclical Discussion Guide* and watch the Encyclical video www.catholicearthcare.org.au.
- Read to inform, inspire and support your actions.
- Rediscover your sense of wonder and awe of creation and encourage a conversion of heart – e.g. engage soulfully and pray deeply in nature: walk on the beach, stop and smell the flowers, sit at the foot of a rainforest waterfall, go for a bushwalk, tend a garden, climb a tree, swim in the ocean, plant a tree, stand atop a mountain, enjoy the feeling of grass, dirt, water beneath your feet and between your toes.
- Separate rubbish and recycle items – e.g. printer cartridges, mobile phones, electric cables and batteries. Seek out specific recycle bins often found where these items are sold.
- Reuse instead of disposing.
- Use fewer paper and plastic products – e.g. use a reusable water bottle, use cloth bags for shopping. Compost instead of disposing of food.
- Reduce water consumption – e.g. take shorter showers, fix leaking taps.
- Celebrate 'Meatless Friday' to reduce your carbon footprint.
- Purchase ethically produced goods and services.
- Check your consumption – e.g. food, electricity, gas, solar panels and use energy-efficient appliances. Move to renewable sources of energy where possible.
- Share your voice publically, call for strong leadership and affirm positive governance for an ecologically sustainable society.
- Consider where your investments, including superannuation, are placed.
- Use public transport, carpool, walk, or ride a bike.

ORGANISATIONAL & COMMUNITY

- Examine *Laudato Si'* and the relevant chapter (s) to your sector, ministry or workplace and discuss at your next executive leadership, board or staff meeting.
- Use the ideas and questions from the reflections as formation during your professional development days or retreats.
- Ensure that learning about care for God's creation is part of formation for both adults and youth, so that it becomes 'core' business.
- Complete an energy audit identifying where energy consumption could be reduced. This benefits both the earth and your organisation's budget.
- Join Catholic Earthcare's National Energy Efficiency Network and cut your energy consumption.
- Investigate the possibilities for using solar power.
- But energy efficient appliances and conserve electricity by turning off lights, air conditioning and stand-by appliances during non-business hours.
- Use recycled and non-carbon paper and/or convert to soft-copy usage.
- Replace disposable cups, plates and cutlery with washable or compostable items.
- Implement a 'people and planet first' approach for business in a strategically integrated model for progress in organisational documents, in values, in activating behaviours.
- Donate leftover food to local soup kitchens or cook only what will reasonably be consumed.
- Offer employees incentives for using public transport or carpooling.
- Plant trees on your institution's property, especially local species.