

## Table Conversation Output

### The Francis Effect II

#### Wagga Wagga Colloquium – 31 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

- ACTION – Teach English for asylum seekers through Red Cross
- Read – Laudato Si' three times!
- Offer further exploration of Laudato Si' at Erin Earth as a study group (one off or get together)
- Education – find opportunities for adult education
- Help kids connect with the natural world ( Jennifer Morgan books)
- Lobby diocesan schools to access Erin Earth programmes
- Consider a parish communities garden. After mass sharing table of excess produce
- CHANGES – invite extra volunteers and 'grow' Erin Earth
- RESOURCES AND NETWORKS – Erin Earth programmes, more widely advertised especially school staff – for 2016 as soon as possible, Catholic Earthcare, Catholic Mission, Utilise indigenous wisdom

#### Group 2

- Be intentional
- Recycle
- Re-imagine God
- Slow down

- Turn off TV – take time to smell the flowers, watch the birds
- Engage with indigenous community
- Be more selective about spending, why? Where?
- More colloquiums

### **Group 3**

- Go Forward
  - Talk to kids and grandchildren
  - Talk to friends and spread the news
  - U3A – workshops, presentations, courses, seminars and anything similar
  - Lenten sustainability – plan a Lenten program (Erin Earth group)
- Changes
  - Dialogue with Vianney college
- Resources and Networks
  - Erin Earth
  - People who are present – we are the church
  - Get copies of videos (Catholic Earthcare) for churches
  - Books – Darwin, Divinity and the dance of the cosmos – Bruce Sanguin, Born with the bang, Larva to life and Mammals are Morph –Jennifer Morgan

### **Group 4**

- House Design
  - Personal – choose efficiently
  - Council – Regulation to ensure better design
- Electricity – Renewable
- How to have people understand the problem
  - Message needs to be clear
- Going forward
  - Personal – Don't use bottled water
  - Recycle
  - Shopping bags
  - Solar cells
- Group
  - What local groups exist? Local registry required, volunteer centre
  - Do I need to start a new group or join existing
  - Should there be a central registry on WWCC site?

## Group 5

- Focus more on social justice and the environment other
- Listen more to all sides of the issue, with all types of listening. Engaging in all types of learning. Dialogue!
- We need a common goal, while encouraging a range of different ideas
- Raise awareness about the importance about all these issues. Big companies think about profit not about the people, or greater awards
- Starts with kids, everything has to start with education
- Today's youth are technological natives. They respond strangely with technology in the classroom, they use it for their social lives. They don't know life without it. Although technology and social media have the capacity to bring them together it can lead to greater social isolation. If they don't have so much social connection why would they care about a common purpose or goal?
- Tess Cornish for youth and school students
- The societal ideas of the importance of individuals and lack of community mindedness does not help
- Young people do not deal with delayed gratification

## Group 6

- Go forward from today
  - Domestic level – look at things in the home to improve sustainable behaviour
  - Have more of these kind of get togethers and bring people with us
  - Support efforts at Erin Earth
  - Support U3A – course coming soon this November on Wagga weather
  - Could we involve refugees?
- Changes
  - Educate ourselves more
  - Compile a list of books, DVDs, Youtube, TED talks so that we could read and study individually or in a group
- Resources and Networks
  - Ask Google
  - Greenpeace
  - U3A
  - Erin Earth
  - Catholic Earthcare website
  - Speakers like Andrew Wallace and Carmel Wallis
  - Local library
  - Inter-church council

## 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](http://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.