**Another world is needed. Together it is possible!**

by Andrew Conradi, ofs

*Laudato Si’ (LS)* - A call to action: final in a series on the 2016 World Social Forum (WSF) held in Montreal

Benedict XVI (2012), in a Message to the International Catholic Action Forum, clearly stated that the responsibility of the laity in the New Evangelization is one of *co-responsibility* with the clergy: “At this stage in history, work in the light of the Church’s social teaching to become a laboratory of “globalization of solidarity and charity”, in order to grow with the entire Church in the co-responsibility of offering a future of hope to humanity, by having the courage to make even demanding proposals.”

“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)

What can we do, as D&P - Caritas Canada puts it, to create *a climate of change*? We must continue to raise our awareness but ultimately it comes down to this: will the many voices of peoplecalling for lasting change be stronger than the powerful interests working behind the scenes to defend the power of the few? As the Pope asked in *LS* : “What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?” (160)

As examples of injustice in an earlier article I mentioned Exon and its funding of deliberate climate denial. I could have reminded readers of the tobacco industry for years denying tobacco was harmful; the fact that OceanaGold is suing El Salvador for $3M for denying a mining permit based on environmental and local community concerns - the case has dragged on for seven years; Volkswagen’s emissions fraud; and the recent revelations about the Harvard scientists who were paid to direct attention away from sugar’s potential health risks. Then there is tax avoidance e.g.: “money-launderers buy multimillion dollar properties in Vancouver, flip them for enormous profits, and live like potentates while reporting poverty-level incomes but seem to attract no scrutiny from the tax authorities.” (The Vancouver Sun, 15 Sept 2016)

How can you become aware and make your voice heard for justice for all creatures as Pope Francis asks us in *Laudato Si’* (179)? This does bear repeating: “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.”

How can you counter the fact that multi-national companies in pursuit of profit infiltrate all systems, economic, academic and political? Use the internet and sources you trust!

I will only cite three but there are many others. First, Development and Peace-Caritas Canada; second, the Global Catholic Climate Movement and third, MiningWatch Canada. When you feel confident that you understand enough you can then put pressure on corporations and governments by signing petitions.

As an example you could sign Development and Peace-Caritas Canada’s petition card (coming this fall) to Prime Minister Trudeau to support small farmers and agroecology. This campaign will be supported by the Canadian Bishops. Sign either the cards you get in church or sign online. You could go to the Global Catholic Climate Movement’s website and become a *Laudato Si’* animator and spread the word about the encyclical itself and the Season of Creation which will occur every year.

As Ilia Delio, osf has written, some see St Francis of Assisi as “the first [Catholic] materialist” because of the way he looked on the material world -- not for *what* it is but for *how* it is -- God’s creation.” As Angela of Foligno, a lay Franciscan, said: “This world is pregnant with God!” And then there is the Jesuit founder St. Ignatius of Loyola who said: "Find God in all things."

This leads me to remember that: “ ..... purchasing is always a moral — and not simply economic — act. Hence the consumer has a specific social responsibility ....." (Benedict XVI, 2009, *Caritas in veritate*, 66)

*Seventh and final article in a series of articles by Andrew Conradi, ofs on the 2016 World Social Forum. The first was a general introduction and touched on lifestyle and values, followed by mining, climate, and agroecology. The last three covered why we need to act and what we can do to help bring about the necessary changes to implement Laudato Si’.*

*A true leader, Archbishop Ramon Arguelles of Lipa leads a 'prayer march'*

*against the building of coal plants in Batangas, Philippines, 17 March 2016.*

