

Advent Meditation 2015
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During the next three years (2016-2018), ICCG takes as the theme for its meetings and seminars, the encyclical of Pope Francis *Laudato Si*, particularly the chapter « The singing of the Gospel is Good News of Creation».

It is in response to the appeal made by Pope Francis on 26 June 2015 to the guide leaders of 42 associations during a special gathering on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of ICCG : « *I think that girl guiding, which instills in its teaching a deep respect for nature, is particularly well equipped (...). I wish that the girl guides continue to be awakened by the presence and goodness of the Creator in the beauty of the world around them. This habit of contemplation will help them live in harmony with themselves, with others and with God. It is a new lifestyle, more in accordance with the Gospel, which they would be able to then transmit into their everyday lives. »*

The encyclical "Be praised" on ecology expresses its concern for the "common house" of all human beings. It is a true social commitment. It particularly emphasises on the education of "the alliance between humanity and the environment." It seeks to call...

Six chapters :

- Aspects of the current ecological crisis: what happens in the house
- The singing of the Gospel is Good News of Creation
- The study of what the Pope calls "the ecological crisis", rooting from human activity
- Integral Ecology: Environmental ecology, economic, social, cultural and everyday life
- Some guidelines on orientation and what action to take
- The fundamental issues of "education" in connection with "ecological spirituality"

The Pope proposes a dialogue that connects the life of each one of us and international politics. He also indicates a path for education, for a "spiritual ecology". An education that involves an "ecological conversion". He proposes to count on a different lifestyle, which involves a path of peace and of joy, like the spirituality of Saint Francis of Assisi.

By continuing this activity of guiding and scouting, we maintain a very strong connection with nature. This connection is ecological education "essential to transform attitudes and habits in order to overcome the disturbing environmental challenges posed to humanity" (Pope Francis in his speech to ICCG, 26 June 2015)

To take this step, meditations will be offered throughout the key times of the liturgical year. So, I begin these meetings with a meditation on Advent.

Advent, this call comes from afar.

Far away, they start to come, they start to operate because the Gospel announces his coming.

Far away, they look, they search for signs, traces of his announcement,

Far away, his cry resounded in the night, like a burst of light,

"What a wonderful certainty of knowing that every person's life is not lost in a hopeless chaos, in a world governed by pure chance or by cycles that repeat themselves absurdly."

The Creator says to each of us: "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you." (Jer 1: 5)

(Laudato Si, No. 65)

This call comes from afar, it is the breath of a birth that leads to "the shared home", as evokes Pope Francis so well.

It is set out to the fraternity to open the doors of this space where the Son of God awaits us all.

This is the time of Advent, of waiting, of inner preparation to welcome the God, who creates Himself as a small child, and comes to give His love to all humanity.

This is the time to seize this light in the darkness of the world.

Happy walking to all associations, to all guides.

Carry it in you and around you, this light of hope, this light of Birth.