



europäische allianz katholischer frauenverbände  
european alliance of catholic women's organisations  
alliance européenne d'organisations féminines catholiques

July 3, 2015

Dear Friends,

As members of the Coordinating Committee of Andante, we are very pleased to learn about the publication of the new encyclical from our Pope Francis: *Laudato si' – on care for our common home*. In this encyclical the Pope calls for a greater attentiveness and a more comprehensive ecology.

Ever since the Summer School in Augsburg (2012) a responsibility for Creation has been one of the main themes of Andante. At that time we made clear that our 1.2 mill. European Andante women would participate in an ecological caretaking of our common planet. Consequently, we are very pleased that Pope Francis has put weight to this theme through his new encyclical. It is worthwhile to read, and here is the link:

**[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/de/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/de/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)**

In addition you will find other speeches there by the Pope.

Together we can achieve something in many places in Europe if we all decide about positive changes. Having in mind the UN climate conference in Paris in December 2015, we as women will pray for courageous steps – or maybe organize an event in our community or our country. Then we can pray or sing the two prayers from the last section of the encyclical or the Canticum of the Sun by St. Francis.

In addition, the ecumenical Creation time between the 1<sup>st</sup> of September and the 4<sup>th</sup> of October will be a relevant time to focus on the new encyclical and the theme of Creation. As women we are determined to leave behind a livable planet for future generations.

Praise be to you, our Lord, through our Mother Earth! – *Laudato si'*

On behalf of the Coordinating Committee of Andante

Mary McHugh  
Chair

PS: We would like to send you an European collection of Creation-prayers and songs by December, enabling us to pray for courageous and ecological decisions in Paris. Please, send us Creation-prayers and songs that you may have by the end of October – to:

**[secretariat@andante-europa.net](mailto:secretariat@andante-europa.net)**

Thanking you in advance, we send our best wishes!