

## **Laudato si' – Solidarity and Mindfulness**

*(Msgr. Pirmin Spiegel, April 2026)*

A little over ten years ago, the door seemed wide open to a path toward societies that organize freedom, prosperity, and democracy within the limits of ecosystems; societies that see themselves as stewards of our Common Home. In 2015, various ideas converged at just the right moment—such as the need for a shift in perspective, shared responsibility, the equitable use of resources, the weight of scientific findings, and hopes... Steps toward a different kind of future began to take shape on the horizon. These visions have names and places: *Laudato si'* at the Vatican in May, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in New York in September, the World Climate Conference in Paris at the end of 2015.

In May: In the encyclical "*Laudato si'*," Pope Francis invites us to a new dialogue on how we shape the future of our planet.

"No pope in modern times has so powerfully supported an assembly of states in solving a problem facing humanity. And so the reactions to the publication of *Laudato si'* were also without historical precedent,

especially outside the Church: Leading scientific journals such as "*Nature*" and "*Science*" dedicated their own commentaries to the encyclical; "*Nature*

*Climate Change*" even a whole special issue. Climate scientists, sociologists, and economists commented on the papal letter—critically, but essentially affirmatively," write Ottmar Edenhofer and Cecilia Kilimann in *Stimmen der Zeit* (9.2025). He is director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and chair of the European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change; she is a research fellow at the same institute in Potsdam.

*Laudato si'* invites us to a dialogue about the common home of planet Earth; it is leaven for a global socio-ecological transformation. The text is written in the style of prophetic speech; it invites every single person to concretely consider their possibilities for shaping their lifestyle, addressing economic, political, and social actors... always with the Common Home on the horizon. In light of planetary boundaries, the text links poverty reduction with wealth reduction, both nationally and globally.

A good ten years later: Efforts to limit global warming have reached a dead end, and the issue has been pushed onto the defensive—global emissions continue to rise, and an end to fossil fuels is not in sight. Instead of concern for the “Common Home,” a crisis of humanity has taken hold, along with a crisis in our relationship with the Earth and with nature. Those in power see themselves as points of reference. They lack the courage to look vulnerable people in the eye.

Easter 2026: a world of violence, weapons, and money is not the only conceivable one. Encouragement and hope as an Easter gift.