Pope Leo XIV: “God will ask us if we have cared for our common home”

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of Pope Francis’ encyclical, *Laudato si’*, Pope Leo XIV addressed participants in the *Raising Hope* Conference, organised by the Laudato Si’ Movement.

In his address, the Pope expressed gratitude for the legacy of Pope Francis’ encyclical, noting how its message has inspired schools, dioceses, academic programmes, and international dialogue.

“Its impact”, he said, “has extended to summits, interreligious initiatives, economic and business circles, as well as theological and bioethical studies.” Above all, he noted that the phrase “care for our common home” has become a standard phrase, used in academic work and public discourse across peoples and continents.

A conversion of heart

While recalling the achievements of the past decade, Pope Leo emphasised that the challenges identified in *Laudato si’* are “even more relevant today than they were ten years ago”. These challenges, he said, are not only political and social, but also spiritual, calling for what Pope Francis described as a “conversion of heart”.

The Pope explained that the heart “is where the deepest searching takes place, where one’s ultimate identity is found, and where decisions are forged. It is only by returning to the heart that a true ecological conversion can take place”. This transformation, he continued, means shifting “from collecting data to caring; from environmental discourse to lifestyles inspired by faith and love of God”.

All are one

Quoting Pope Francis’ description of Saint Francis of Assisi, the Holy Father reminded participants that ecological concern, justice for the poor, social commitment, and inner peace are inseparable.

Looking ahead to upcoming global summits, including COP30 and the UN's 2026 Water Conference, the Pope urged leaders to heed the cries of "the Earth and the poor, families, indigenous peoples, involuntary migrants and believers throughout the world".

What will be our answer?

Concluding his address, Pope Leo asked the question: "God will ask us if we have cultivated and cared for the world that He created, and if we have taken care of our brothers and sisters. What will be our answer?".

* *Article published in Vatican News. By Francesca Merlo.*