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My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have witnessed our Holy Father Pope Francis' concerns about the climate crisis we are currently experiencing. In both his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, and his latest exhortation, *Laudate Deum* (2023), he not only urges us to act and work towards the care of our common home as stewards of God's creation, but to seek the Lord in His work of art, with joy and gratitude for what He has created.

We see how climate change, through extreme weather patterns, has become the most discussed topic worldwide. Governments, businesses, communities, and even our Church are dialoguing on how best to reverse the inexorably rising temperatures and extreme swings in the weather wreaking havoc on our environment. Around the world, we see whole populations suffering under the yoke of poverty and natural disasters that have destroyed their homes and livelihoods. We also see how the anthropocentric model has turned our priorities upside-down, replacing God with our self-centeredness and desires.

Despite our indifference, God, in His infinite love, does not leave us. In the Bible, we see how He uses nature and extreme climatic events to get man's attention. That is why God, through his chief shepherd on earth, calls us to return to Him and to change our hearts – as He did in the time of the prophet Joel – so that deliverance and restoration will be granted as He promised: "Then I will make up to you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the stripping locust and the gnawing locust" (Joel 2:25). This is what we need today – a planet restored and healed.

I am echoing this call to action for genuine change in the Singapore Archdiocese. This requires a change of heart through real transformation in our lives, turning our self-seeking souls into God-seeking ones in caring for His creation.

To make this a reality, Caritas Singapore has been appointed to lead the Catholic community in Singapore in its care for creation efforts by working with parishes and numerous other Catholic groups, as well as collaborating with other like-minded partners.

Through its Care for Creation framework, Caritas Singapore will help the community to systematically incorporate *Laudato Si'* principles into their daily lives. This includes the integration of several facets: more ecologically-friendly practices in our buildings; the beginning of an "awareness journey", working together as a community in Christ; and spiritual formation rooted in Catholic social teaching, pointing towards an "ecological conversion".

Although this task may seem insurmountable, we can all play our part in stewarding our common home through a spirit of determination to make small changes, one at a time.

We ask our Lord to renew our relationship with Him, with our brothers and sisters, and with ourselves, and that He will help us see His creation as a gift for us to care for, use, and restore, and not material to exploit and destroy.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William Cardinal Goh". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

H. Em William Cardinal Goh  
Archbishop of Singapore

24 May, 2024