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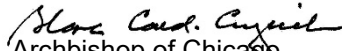
Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Five years ago, Pope Francis issued the groundbreaking encyclical *Laudato Si'*. "I urgently appeal," he wrote, "...for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all." These words continue to resonate during the COVID-19 pandemic, as the deep interconnectedness of the relationship between our society and our common home continues to be emphasized.

Later this month, during the week of May 16-24, Catholic communities throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago are invited to participate in "*Laudato Si'* Week" to mark its fifth anniversary. Pastors are encouraged to preach on the importance of caring for God's creation and promoting an integral ecology and include intentions for the healing and restoration of our common home. I also encourage all the faithful to contact their Congressional representatives in support of H.R. 763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, a bipartisan piece of legislation aimed at alleviating climate change by reducing national carbon emissions. This legislation has been approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Catholic Climate Covenant.

Our Office of Human Dignity and Solidarity has provided resources and learning opportunities online at www.archchicago.org/creation to help your family and community care for our common home during *Laudato Si'* Week and beyond. You, your families and our common home are certainly in my prayers during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Archbishop of Chicago