

# ***Laudato Si'* and the Paschal Mystery**

## **Seven Conversations**

(Numbers refer to *Laudato Si'*)

### **First Conversation**

'Lord, Lent means Springtime, a time of preparation for new life in nature. New life of a deeper kind breaks in on the world through what we call the Paschal Mystery--your suffering, dying and rising to eternal life. What you have done touches all time and space, all matter and every person. So help me now, please, to link your Passion with the present passion of creation, so that Easter joy may dawn upon us all.

Let me begin to unfold the Mystery by looking at your Last Supper. There you washed the feet of your startled followers, something only slaves had to do. Then under the form of bread and wine you showed that you were giving yourself over to death **for us**. '*For us*' sums you up perfectly: you were given over totally for our good. Then came the challenge which can change our lives: you said, '*I have set you an example; do as I have done*'. So what can I do? How can I be **for** the world as you were?

Pope Francis says: "**The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home. Particular appreciation is owed to those who tirelessly seek to resolve the tragic effects of environmental degradation on the lives of the world's poorest.**" (13)

Lord, I can '*wash feet*' by serving the needy, by cleaning what I have dirtied. I can consume a little less and share what I save with the hungry. I can get involved in caring more deeply for your creation. Let me do these things, not alone but in companionship with you. Amen.'

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