

FORUM OF THE COMBONI FAMILY ON INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

Communiqué 1

“There are not two separate crises, one environmental and one social, but a single and complex socio-environmental crisis. The lines for the solution require a comprehensive approach to fighting poverty, to restore dignity to the excluded, and at the same time to care for nature” (LS, 139).

Rome, 10th March 2025.

Dear Comboni Family,

Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'* tells us that today's problems require an integral response, which he calls Integral Ecology (LS, 139), he explains: “Today we cannot fail to recognize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach, which must integrate justice into discussions about the environment, in order to listen to both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor” (LS, 139. 49).

At the XIX General Chapter of the Comboni Missionaries, and certainly also in the Official Documents of the other branches of the Comboni Family, Integral Ecology was confirmed as a fundamental axis of our mission. Since the publication of the Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si*, the Comboni Family has begun a process of conversion to Integral Ecology, as requested by Pope Francis (LS, 21-221). This ecological conversion takes place at various rates and speeds in each branch of the Comboni Family.

To promote this process of conversion to Integral Ecology, a **Forum of the Comboni Family on Integral Ecology** will be held in Belém, Brazil, on the occasion of the **30th United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP30)**, which will be held for the first time on Amazonian soil. This Forum gives the Comboni Family the opportunity to share, listen and reflect on what we are doing in the field of Integral Ecology and, at the same time, to learn from the native peoples and popular movements around the world on how to best care for our Common Home.

The Forum of the Comboni Family on Integral Ecology will be held from 11 to 18 November 2025. The entire Comboni Family is invited to participate in the Forum by sending some representatives, as it will be a great opportunity to meet to share experiences, continue to walk in our process of conversion to Integral Ecology and reflect on the missionary actions that we can carry out from Integral Ecology.

We hope and trust that the four branches of the Comboni Family will be represented at this missionary meeting. The people who will participate in the Forum of the Comboni Family

on Integral Ecology should be interested in the theme and already providing missionary service in the field of justice, peace and the integrity of creation.

In preparation for the Forum of the Comboni Family on Integral Ecology, two online meetings (webinars) will be held open to the general public, to all those who want to participate, even those who will not go to Brazil for the Forum of the Comboni Family. The first will be held on May 28 and the second on September 30.

With this first communiqué we want to motivate the participation of the four branches of the Comboni Family in this Comboni Forum, each one starting from its own criteria, orientations and possibilities. This Forum of the Comboni Family, in addition to being another step in our process of conversion to Integral Ecology, is also an opportunity to continue to strengthen collaboration and synodality within the Comboni Family.

General Programme

- 11 November: Internal activities of the Comboni Family (arrival the day before).
- From 12 to 15: Participation of the Comboni Family in the Tapiri of the Amazon and in the People's Summit (COP30).
- Day 16: Partially free (participation in other COP30 activities).
- From the 16th to the 18th: Internal activities of the Comboni Family (resonance of the participation in the Tapiri of the Amazon and in the People's Summit and the way forward).

Preparatory activities

- Webinar I: 28th May (organised by the Organising Committee of the Forum).
- Webinar II: 30th September (organised by the Comboni Family Collaboration Group in Rome).

We will send you more information later through other communications.

Following the example of St. Daniel Comboni, let us continue to work for the integral regeneration of the peoples we serve.

Articulation Team of the Forum of the Comboni Family on Integral Ecology

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