

Participation-May 2016



Pope Pius XI in 1930

May 15—Pentecost and the 85th Anniversary of *Quadragesimo Anno*

On 15 May, 1931, Pope Pius XI published his encyclical *Quadragesimo Anno* on the 40th anniversary of Pope Leo XIII's encyclical *Rerum Novarum*. While *Rerum Novarum* was a document addressing the issues affecting the poor working classes, *Quadragesimo Anno* addressed the ethical implications of the social and economic order. It describes the major dangers for human freedom and dignity arising from unrestrained capitalism and totalitarian socialism/communism. Pius XI also calls for the reconstruction of the social order based on the principles of solidarity and subsidiarity.

Let us pray for those among us who struggle to make ends meet, who labor long hours and who often have little to show for their efforts. May we work for the common good and may we work together to create more just and peaceful societies.



Jägerstätter farmstead in St Radegund

May 21—Feast of Blessed Franz Jägerstätter

Franz Jägerstätter was a farmer and a member of the Third Order of St Francis. During the Nazi occupation of Austria, he was conscripted into the German army. He refused to fight in the war, being a conscientious objector. He was arrested, tried by a military court of undermining military morale, and executed on 9 August, 1943 at the age of 33.

Let us pray for all those who suffer because of the violence of war and for peacemakers everywhere who work for justice and peace through active non-violence. May we all have the courage to stand for non-violence, no matter what the risk.



May 22—International Day for Biological Diversity

International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May was first celebrated in 2002 to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. This year's theme is ***Mainstreaming Biodiversity: Sustaining People and Their Livelihoods***. Biodiversity underpins all of life on

this planet and preservation of biodiversity is essential for sustainable development. This is a day to celebrate biodiversity and to redouble our efforts to stop the extinction of species.

Let us pray for Mother Earth who sustains the vast diversity of species with which the Creator has gifted this planet. Help us to appreciate the uniqueness that each creature brings to the web of life. Through greater awareness may each of us do what we can to care for our common home.



May 24—First Anniversary of *Laudato Si: On the Care Of Our Common Home*

Laudato Si, the first papal encyclical of Pope Francis, seems destined to go down in history as a major turning point, the moment when environmentalism claimed pride of place on a par with the dignity of human life and economic justice as a cornerstone of Catholic social teaching. It also made the Catholic Church a leading moral voice in the press to combat global warming and the consequences of climate change.

Let us pray for our Mother Earth and for all who call this planet home. May we commit ourselves to living a radically simpler life style so that the life of the planet can be sustained for future generations.