



## Living in communion with all creatures

### - The conviction that everything in the world is connected

*In our utilitarian mentality we are inclined to look at nature as a collection of useful items and think of ourselves as individuals apart from and above nature. Science has taught us to see the world as a network of closely connected ecosystems in which living creatures communicate with each other and are dependent on each other. In 'Laudato Si' Pope Francis has given us 'a spirituality of global solidarity' where we see ourselves as 'part of a universal family' living in communion with God and all his creatures of whom we are part and on whom our life depends.*

✿ ...As part of the universe, called into being by one Father, all of us are linked by unseen bonds and together form **a kind of universal family, a sublime communion** which fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect... This is not to put all living beings on the same level nor to deprive human beings of their unique worth and the tremendous responsibility it entails.

(Laudato Si 89.90)

✿ The human person grows more, matures more and is sanctified more to the extent that he or she enters into relationships, going out from themselves **to live in communion with God, with others and with all creatures**. In this way, they make their own that trinitarian dynamism which God imprinted in them when they were created. **Everything is interconnected**, and this invites us to develop a spirituality of that global solidarity which flows from the mystery of the Trinity. (240)



✿ It is our humble conviction that the divine and the human meet in the slightest detail in the **seamless garment of God's creation**, in the last speck of dust of our planet. (9)

✿ Because all creatures are connected, each must be cherished with love and respect, for all of us as living creatures are dependent on one another. (42) Although we are often not aware of it, **we depend on these larger systems for our own existence**. (140)



✿ The universe as a whole, in all its manifold relationships, shows forth the inexhaustible riches of God... Hence we need to grasp the variety of things in their multiple relationships... **No creature is self-sufficient**. Creatures exist only in dependence on each other, to complete each other, in the service of each other. (86)

✿ Just as the different aspects of the planet - physical, chemical and biological - are interrelated, so too **living species are part of a network** which we will never fully explore and understand.. (138) Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it.. (139)

*The creator of our life is also the Creator of the lives of wild animals. The relationship we have with animals is decreed by the same Creator. Human beings share their life with both wild and tame animals.*

Chenjerai Hove