



EUROPEAN LAUDATO SI' ALLIANCE

### SPIRITUALITY AND ECOLOGY 2023

## Skills for the ecological conversion: inspiration from “*Ora et Labora*”

*A workshop in Taizé (France), 16 -19 November 2023*

### Programme

#### Thursday 16th November

**During the day**      **Arrival** at the *La Morada* (Reception office in Taizé)

**Welcome to Taizé and the workshop**

Presentation of the programme

Presentation of ELSiA

Round of introductions

7.00pm      Community dinner

8.30pm      *Taizé Evening prayer*

Possibility of late dinner for those who arrive later.



**Friday 17th November**

7.30am Breakfast

8.15am Morning Prayer

9.15am **Session 0: Opening of the workshop and introductions**

Moderator of the session: TBC

Introduction:

Every participant to the workshop received and filled in a pre-workshop survey to assess the expectations and the inspirations that they are bringing to the workshop.

During this session we will share the feedback received and present the programme in detail.

We will conduct an ice breaker exercise to get to know each other in a convivial setting.

General organization of each session: the speaker will present his input for 15' minutes followed by reactions from the participants working in small groups for 35 minutes.

The group will reconvene in the plenary session and share their feedback.

10.10am **Ecospirituality in our daily work: a simple exercise**

**Laura Morosini** - Laudato Si' Movement

10.30 am Break

11.00 am **Session 1: How does manual work inspire spirituality or vice versa? Inspiration from Ora et Labora and the Ecological Conversion Group**

**Speaker: John Paul de Quay and Michael Kuhn**

The [Ecological Conversion group](#) was founded by three Catholic young adults to help the Church understand and respond to Pope Francis's Encyclical letter; Laudato Si' On Care of Our Common Home. We started off providing talks for our own community, then started producing resources to spread the message, since then The Ecological Conversion Group has grown in its work and after 5 years has become a registered charity dedicated to inspiring action on Care of Creation.

12.30pm Midday prayer

1.00pm Lunch

4pm **Art workshop and gardening workshop led by the Taizé community**



The group will experience some of the works that the community of Taizé leads and that contribute to the sustainability of the community.

5.30pm **Presentation of ELSiA to the young people of Taizé** (led by ELSiA SG members 2 or 3 people TBD)

7.00 pm Dinner

8.30pm Taizé Evening prayer followed by the prayer around the cross

10.00pm Laudato Si' and the arts – Movie evening: "[Le grand silence](#)" with an introduction by Michael Kuhn

### **Saturday 18th November**

7.30am **Breakfast**

8.15am Morning Prayer

9.30am **Session 2: Changing the world of work: "Winds of change: the SPES framework" - Prof. Mario Biggeri [economy and spirituality part 1]**

**Mario Biggeri** is Full Professor in Applied Economics at the Department of Science for Economics and Business at the University of Florence. He has been a fellow of the Human Development and Capabilities Association since 2010. He is author and co-author of 21 books and over 50 publications in international scientific journals. He is also Vice-President of the Graduate Degree Course SECI – Sustainable Development, Cooperation and Conflict Management at the University of Florence. Since 2010 he has been a fellow of the Human Development and Capabilities Association. His research focuses on multidimensional analysis and measurement of sustainable human development processes and poverty, international cooperation, 2030 Agenda, impact assessments, capability approach, welfare of children and persons with disabilities, social innovation, collective action, evolution of informal activities and clustering of small and medium-sized enterprises, integral human development at local level . He is the Scientific Director of ARCO (at PIN -Polo Universitario della Città di Prato) and of the Yunus Social Business Centre University of Florence. He is the Principal Investigator of the Horizon Europe SPES project – Sustainability performances, evidence and scenario – and of WP4 (Spoke 10) of THE Tuscany Health Ecosystem project financed by NPRR.

11.00am **Break**



**11.30            Session 2: The role of spirituality in Integral Human Development from a capability approach perspective - Prof. Mario Biggeri [economy and spirituality part 2]**

**12.30pm        Midday prayer**

**1.00pm         Lunch**

**2.15pm        Session 3 : "Enlarge the Circle of Compassion: An Introduction to Animals as a Christian Concern" by Barbara Niedźwiedzka and Estela Torres**

**Prof. Barbara Niedzwiedzka** is an Information science specialist, the Laudato si' Movement Animator, animal welfare activist and the leader of the group "Christians for Animals - Poland". She is the author of the Polish report "Catholics and God's animals' ", and many articles and meditations connected with humans - animals relations from the Christian perspective. She writes and provides resources on her website - OPOWIEDZZWIERZE.PL - [www.opowiedzzwierze.pl](http://www.opowiedzzwierze.pl), an integral ecology web site OUR COMMON HOME - <https://www.klubtygodnika.pl/nasz-wspolny-dom/> and a site CARE FOR CREATION - <https://kongreskk.pl/2021/03/05/troska-o-stworzenie/>. Lives in Krakow, Poland.

**Estela Torres**, an independent artist born in Mexico, has resided in France since 2001. She co-founded the Christian animal advocacy organization FRA - Fraternité pour le respect animal in 2016 and has led the organization since 2017 (<https://fra-respect-animal.org/>). Her responsibilities include overseeing its website, promoting animal welfare, and supporting Christian animal advocates within the Christian community. Estela is known for organizing conferences and prayer groups focused on animals and the Church. She is an alumna of the CreatureKind program and was part of the 2020-2021 cohort (<https://www.becreaturekind.org/>). Currently, she is part of the 2023-2024 cohort of the Animal Chaplaincy Training program with Compassion Consortium (<https://www.compassionconsortium.org/>).

**5.00pm        Session 4 : The importance of rest: exploring the Sabbath tradition Br Richard of Taizé**

**Br Richard** will guide us on a reflection on the importance of rest and dedicating time to God and share with us how the practice of Sabbath is still relevant for us today.

**Brother Richard** has been a member of the Taizé Community since 1979. Originally from Switzerland, he has visited South-East Europe extensively and developed Taizé's relations with the Orthodox world. A theologian, he has written several books inspired by his Bible studies with young people. As part of the ELSiA colloquium, he will talk about the seventh day of the creation story (Genesis 2:1-3), about God who knows how to stop; then he will comment on the resumption of Genesis 2:1-3 in John 19:28-30, and on the "great day of that Sabbath" (John 19:31). Finally, he will reflect on God's rest, in which we are called to participate today: "There remains a Sabbath-rest for the people of God ... let us therefore hasten to enter that rest" (Hebrews 4:9-11).

**7.00 pm        Dinner**

**8.30pm        Evening prayer**



**10.00pm** Laudato Si' and the arts (optional)

**Sunday 19th November**

8.00 am Breakfast

8.30am **Final session: led by a member of the ELSiA Steering Group**

In this session we reflect on key takeaways from this workshop and what we have learned since we started in 2021.

10.00am *Taizé Eucharist*

13.00pm Lunch

Departure after lunch