On Care for Our Common Home
Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis: LAUDATO SI’

Laudato Si’ is the appeal from Pope Francis to “every person living on this planet” for an inclusive dialogue about how we are shaping the future of this planet. Pope Francis calls the Church and the world to acknowledge the urgency of our environmental challenges and join him in embarking on a new path. -USCCB

This issue of Just News features excerpts from Laudato Si’ with paragraph numbers included for reference.

Climate as a Common Good

“Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings above all who need to change. We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone” (202).

“Our throw away culture affects the entire planet” (22). “…it is not possible to sustain the present level of consumption in developed countries and wealthier sectors of society, where the habit of wasting and discarding has reached unprecedented levels” (27). “We have not yet managed to adopt a production model capable of preserving resources for present and future generations while limiting the use of non-renewable resources, moderating our consumption, maximizing our efficient use, reusing and recycling our resources” (22).

“Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption in order to combat this warming or least the human causes which produce or aggravate it” (23). “These problems are closely linked to a throw away culture which affects the excluded just as it quickly reduces things to rubbish” (20).

Pope Francis’ Appeal

“The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development” (13).

“I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all” (14).

Tips to Care for Our Common Home

- “...promote a new way of thinking about human beings, life, society and our relationship with nature” (215).
- “For poor countries, the priorities must be to eliminate extreme poverty and to promote the social development of their people” (172).
- “…show concern for a public place (a building, a fountain, an abandoned monument, a landscape, a square), and strive to protect, restore, improve or beautify it as something belonging to everyone” (232).
**Resources to Get Involved**

**About the Encyclical**

**Participate:**
- Attend the Diocese of Orange’s “Praise be to You” (August 8)- [http://praisebetoyou.eventbrite.com](http://praisebetoyou.eventbrite.com)

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**A Prayer for Our Earth**

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

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**On the Poor and Vulnerable**

“We have to dare to speak of the integrity of human life, of the need to promote and unify all the great values. Once we lose our humility, and become enthralled with the possibility of limitless mastery over everything, we inevitably end up harming society and the environment” (224).

“Climate change is a global problem with grave implications...this in turn affects the livelihood of the poor, who are then forced to leave their homes, with great uncertainty for their future and that of their children. There has been a tragic rise in the number of migrants seeking to flee from the growing poverty caused by environmental degradation. They are not recognized by international conventions as refugees; they bear the loss of the lives they have left behind” (25).

“Our world has a grave social debt towards the poor who lack access to drinking water, because they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity” (30).

“Both everyday experience and scientific research show that the gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest” (48).

“Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope” (244).