

### **What is Laudato Si'?**

An encyclical of Pope Francis published in May 2015. It's an open invitation to all people everywhere to care for the Earth as our common home created by God. The encyclical's subtitle, "Care for Our Common Home".

### **What does Laudato Si' mean?**

The first words of Laudato Si' are Italian and translate as "*praise be to you*". They are part of a quotation from St. Francis of Assisi's "Canticle of the Creatures."

### **What is addressed in Laudato Si'?**

What is happening to our common home - The Earth's climate is changing faster than at any point in the history of modern civilization. This change is primarily the result of human activity. Issues include pollution, warmer temperatures, water scarcity, loss of biodiversity, and global inequality.

The Gospel of creation - The Genesis creation stories are interpreted as enjoining responsible cultivation and protection of nature. The natural world is a gift and a common inheritance of all people. Pope Francis encourages us to gaze on Jesus who shows us how to treat each other with compassion and concern for all of creation.

Education & Spirituality - Christians must realize their responsibility within creation, and their duty towards nature are an essential part of their faith. Laudato Si' calls for a lifestyle focused less on consumerism and more on timeless, enduring values. It calls for environmental education, and an "ecological conversion" which leads to a deeper communion with God, other people, and the world of nature.

Approach & Actions - Laudato Si' calls for international agreements to protect the environment and assist those adversely impacted by climate change. Advocate for national & local policies that support the good of all people.

What is Laudato Si' asking us to do ? - Many Catholics have strong environmental awareness but may not connect this to their faith. It's important for people of faith to pursue environmental sustainability and take small actions (each day) for a positive change.

Laudato Si' is a reminder of how people of faith should not only respect the Earth but also praise and honor God through their engagement with creation.