Laudato Si
THE TWO GREATEST COMMANDMENTS
& OUR PLANET
How Are the Two Greatest Commandments Related to the Environment?

Love God with all Your Heart

- Show Appreciation for the Gift of Creation

Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

- Recognize the Human Suffering Caused by Environmental Damage
Is Pope Francis the 1st “Green” Pope? Nope.

**BLESSED POPE PAUL VI** – “Due to an ill-considered exploitation of nature, humanity runs the risk of destroying it and becoming in turn a victim of this degradation.” Apostolic Letter *Octogesima Adveniens* May 14, 1971

**ST. JOHN PAUL II** - “An education in ecological responsibility is urgent: responsibility for oneself, for others, and for the earth. This education cannot be rooted in mere sentiment or empty wishes. Its purpose cannot be ideological or political. It must not be based on a rejection of the modern world or a vague desire to return to some "paradise lost". Instead, a true education in responsibility entails a genuine conversion in ways of thought and behavior.” World Day of Peace January 1, 1990

**POPE BENEDICT XVI** - “A greater sense of intergenerational solidarity is urgently needed. Future generations cannot be saddled with the cost of our use of common environmental resources... We cannot refuse to interest ourselves in those who will come after us ...This is a responsibility that present generations have towards those of the future.... Natural resources should be used in such a way that immediate benefits do not have a negative impact on living creatures, human and not, present and future...” World Day of Peace on January 1, 2010
The encyclical is much more about the need for human beings to change than climate change. It is about care for the earth, but not care for the earth ‘in isolation.’ It talks about the relationship of human beings with God, the earth and other human beings...

As a Captain in the Navy, I see firsthand how climate change is a national security issue...

I hope that as we become more aware of our responsibility to care for nature and the earth, we will be moved to care more for our neighbors – especially the poor...”
Two Parts of Laudato Si

WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW
- What is Happening to Creation
- The Gospel of Creation
- Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis
- Integral Ecology

WHAT WE NEED TO DO
- Lines of Approach & Action
- Ecological Education & Spirituality
What We Need to Know – Part 1:
What is Happening to Creation

- Pollution
- Changes in the Carbon Cycle
- Climate Change
- Global Inequality
- Loss of Biodiversity
- Water
What We Need to Know – Part 2: The Gospel of Creation

- The earth was here before us
- Each part of Creation has its own purpose & we are all interdependent
- The false notion of “dominion”
- The role of humans in Creation
### What We Need to Know – Part 3: Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Our values and conscience have not kept pace with technological advances</th>
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<td>The lie of infinite supply</td>
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<td>We are learning all too slowly the lessons of environmental degradation</td>
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<td>By itself, the market cannot guarantee integral human development and social inclusion</td>
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<td>Ecological culture cannot be reduced to a series of urgent and partial responses</td>
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<td>Responsible stewardship</td>
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<td>Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God</td>
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What We Need to Know – Part 4: Integral Ecology

- We are part of nature
- We depend on the ecosystems for our existence
- Justice between generations
- The interconnected network of species
- Special care for indigenous peoples
- Ethical and cultural decline has accompanied the deterioration of the environment

Society, economy, and behavior patterns must be addressed to truly protect creation

Ethical and cultural decline has accompanied the deterioration of the environment
What We Need to Do – Part 1: Lines of Approach & Action For Society

<table>
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<th>Global consensus on:</th>
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<td>• A sustainable and diversified agriculture</td>
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<td>• Developing renewable and less polluting forms of energy</td>
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<td>• Encouraging a more efficient use of energy</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Promoting better management of marine and forest resources</td>
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<td>• Ensuring universal access to drinking water</td>
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Politics and economics must enter into a frank dialogue in the service of life, especially human life

Environmental impact assessment of business ventures
What We Need to Do – Part 1: Lines of Approach & Action For Individuals

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<th>Action</th>
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<td>Ask God for a positive outcome to International negotiations</td>
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<td>Society must put pressure on governments</td>
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<td>Reject a magical conception of the market</td>
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<tr>
<td>Be prepared to encourage more sober lifestyles [Pope Benedict XVI]</td>
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<td>We must all look to the common good</td>
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What We Need to Do – Part 2:
Ecological Education & Spirituality (Slide 1)

Education aimed at creating ‘ecological citizenship’ is at times limited to providing information, and fails to instill good habits.

Ecological education can take place in a variety of settings: at school, in families, in the media, in catechesis and elsewhere.

Examine our lifestyle. There is a great need for a sense of social responsibility on the part of consumers.

‘Purchasing is always a moral – and not simply economic – act.’ [Pope Benedict XVI]

All Christian communities have an important role to play in ecological education.

Ask God for a profound interior conversion. Our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue.

Take time to recover a serene harmony with creation and contemplating the Creator who lives among us and surrounds us.

We must be concerned with catastrophic consequences of social unrest.
What We Need to Do – Part 2: Ecological Education & Spirituality (Slide 2)

There is nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions:

- Avoiding the use of plastic and paper
- Reducing water consumption
- Separating refuse
- Cooking only what can reasonably be consumed
- Showing care for other living beings
- Using public transport or car-pooling
- Planting trees
- Turning off unnecessary lights
Call to Action

Laudato Si in our Personal Lives

Laudato Si in our Parish Life