

Laudato Si – The Call to Care for our Common Home

What is it? *Laudato Si* (Praise Be to You) is Pope Francis' encyclical issued in 2015. It is written in the spirit of St. Francis and is subtitled "On Care for Our Common Home".

What is it about? Recognizing the essential connectedness of all things, *Laudato Si* calls for an “ecological conversion” to the earth (217). It promotes right relationships with all the poor and marginalized, including the natural world, now suffering so much from environmental degradation and human-induced global warming.

What does it recommend? It calls for personal and communal care for the common good through lifestyles animated by sound ecological virtues: praise, gratitude, care (that requires action), justice, the dignity of work, simplicity of lifestyle, humility.

It calls us to take "swift and unified global action":

- to establish right relationships with our Creator God, each other and all creation
- to work towards sustainable and integral development which respects the rights of all members of the earth community.

Who should act on it?

All Catholics and people of good will. The Brisbane Archdiocese has set out an Action Plan based on the 7 *Laudato Si* Action Platform Goals: Response to Cry of the Earth, Response to Cry of the Poor, Ecological Economics, Sustainable Lifestyles, Ecological Education, Ecological Spirituality and Community Resilience and Empowerment.

The Archdiocese encourages all schools, parishes, families and individuals to participate in fulfilling the Action Platform goals. If every family could make one small change to benefit the planet, imagine what a difference it would make!

What can I do? (See over)

- Pray, reflect and re-connect with nature.
- Any practical action to simplify lifestyle and promote awareness: e.g., reduce waste (especially use of plastic), consume less.
- Inform yourself: read *Laudato Si*, (check out Dan Horan's talks on youtube and other websites ...see below)
- Join a group (Like the Peace Through Justice Group), discuss green issues with others, advocate...

Where can I find materials?

Laudato Si Action platform: <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/>

The Archdiocesan website: <https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/life/laudato-si/>

of Our Times (CJPC and ACBC): <https://signstimes.net/>

Catholic Earthcare: <https://catholicearthcare.org.au/>

Religious Response to Climate Change: <https://www.arrcc.org.au/>

<https://jesuit.org.au/laudato-si-action-plan>

Signs

Australian

Jesuits Australia:

Reconciling God, Creation and Humanity: An Ignatian Examen

In Laudato Si' Pope Francis asked us to care for creation and to reconcile our relationship with God, creation and one another.

Borrowing from the great Ignatian tradition of examens, this

Ecological Examen asks you to reflect on your personal relationship with creation, to acknowledge and amend your ways and to promote ecological justice by standing in solidarity with those most impacted by environmental harm.

Begin the Examen by placing yourself or your group in a posture that allows you to be open to the ways the Spirit is working in you. There are six steps in the Examen:

I give thanks to God for creation and for being wonderfully made.

(Where did I feel God's presence in creation today?)

I ask for the grace to see creation as God does – in all its splendor and suffering.

(Do I see the beauty of creation and hear the cries of the earth and the poor?)

I ask for the grace to look closely to see how my life choices impact creation and the poor and vulnerable.

(What challenges or joys do I experience as I recall my care for creation? How can I turn away from a throwaway culture and instead stand in solidarity with creation and the poor?)

I ask for the grace of conversion towards ecological justice and reconciliation.

(I acknowledge where I have fallen short in caring for creation and my brothers and sisters, and ask for a conversion of heart.)

I ask for the grace to reconcile my relationship with God, creation and humanity, and to stand in solidarity through my actions.

(How can I repair my relationship with creation and make choices consistent with my desire for reconciliation with creation?)

I offer a closing prayer for the earth and the vulnerable in our society.