

Laudato Si - Care for our Common Home

BIG QUESTION: What is Pope Francis' message for us in Laudato Si?

We are called to stay tuned to God and to recognize His presence in all of life.

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Creation reveals the nature of God (Romans 1:20)

God's creation is sacred and reflects something of who God is. Caring for our earth is part of what it means to be a Christian. Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical on the earth is revolutionary. He made the spiritual perspective part of the discussion on the environment. He highlights that the poor in developing will feel the worst impact of climate change. He reminds us that everything is connected and says, "We are part of nature, included in it and in constant interaction with it."

Key vocabulary

creation

stewardship

Common Home

care



"When nature is viewed solely as a source of profit and gain, this has serious consequences for society."



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BIG QUESTION: How can care for God's creation?



Task: At home with your family, make a worship space about creation.

Choose some different pictures of creation, think of your favourite animals and plants. Think of your favourite places in nature, the beach, the park, the woods, the countryside. Light a candle and place a bowl of water and some flowers or a plant as a central focus.

Ask each member of your family to say, "Thank you God for..." and pray together.

5 Take aways from Laudato Si

1. Laudato Si calls everyone to stop the environmental crisis because everything is connected—we are part of nature. The earth is our common home
2. The plight of the poor is highlighted and how climate change will affect those in developing countries the most
3. Less is more—Christian's should be happy with little and should not turn away from the poor
4. Catholic Social teaching now includes teaching on the environment—a change of heart is required
5. The Gospel of creation is a bible ecology link that calls us to care for creation

Art Task: There are many paintings which show the theme of God's creation. See how many you can find.



Creative Writing Task: Write your own prayer of thanks for God's beautiful creation.



Geography Task: Compare a map with a globe. When you look at the map it seems that we are all separated, but when you look at the globe, you will see we are all joined together as a world family. Look at all the different places of God's wonderful creation, the desert, the rainforest, the arctic, the sea, the sky.



What can you do as a school to celebrate Earth Day this year? Can you turn it into an Earth Week, an Earth Month and even an Earth Year!

