

*Be praised, my Lord,
through all your creatures!*

*Thirteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time*



San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

June 28, 2015

LAUDATO SI' (Praised Be)

ON THE CARE OF OUR COMMON HOME

A Moral Issue

Pope Francis' recently published encyclical letter, **Laudato Si' (Praised Be) On Care For Our Common Home**, outlines the moral imperatives of protecting the environment (in biblical terms: Creation). It insists that environmental issues are not simply political and economic issues—they are moral issues. Beautifully written, theologically accessible, powerfully authoritative and fully pastoral, Francis' words touch the heart. **Laudato Si'** deserves to be studied and internalized by all of us. It can be easily found in English at www.LaudatoSi.com.

Commentary Fr. Robert Barron:



God as Creator

"It's appropriate that I'm speaking to you from Assisi the day that **Laudato Si (Praised be)**, the Pope's new encyclical letter, was published. Of course that opening line, taken from the Canticum of the Creatures, was written by St Francis himself, someone who was deeply in touch with the beauty and dignity of creation. I want to share one really fundamental idea from the encyclical with you.

Something which the biblical authors, church fathers and great medieval doctors had in common was a **cosmological vision**. Going to the beginning of Genesis, human beings are situated within a **cosmic framework**. It's not all about them; they have a very important stewardship role but salvation will be played out within a cosmic framework. Now look in the prophets, look in Isaiah, Jeremiah; look in the Psalms, the Song of Songs. All through the bible you find this **cosmological sensibility**. You see it also in Christensen, Irenaeus, Jerome, Augustine; now come up to the Middle Ages and Thomas Aquinas, Bonaventure, and especially Francis of Assisi---a **sense of how all salvation is worked out in a much larger cosmological framework**.

The idea comes from a keen sense of creation, the Creator God. Since we are all coming forth here and now from the same creative source, we are all ontological siblings; in Francis' language, brother sun and sister moon. Where you have a keen sense of the Creator you have an equally keen sense of how everything in creation is connected, related, integrated.

This is, it seems to me, the main point Francis is making. It's a recovery of this ancient biblical, patristic and medieval idea in the face of an aggressive, anthropocentric modernity that wants to turn nature into simply something we can manipulate. And you see, that is repugnant to a biblical sensibility."

(This video commentary by Fr. Robert Barron was given after his first reading of the encyclical. Visit LaudatoSi.com to watch the video, read the encyclical, and find more resources.)

glossary . . .

Cosmos (cosmological) The world or universe regarded as an orderly, harmonious system;

Ontological

Of or relating to ontology, the branch of metaphysics that studies the nature of existence of being as such; metaphysical;

Anthropocentric

Considering human beings as the most significant entity of the universe; viewing and interpreting everything in terms of human experience and values;

The encyclical "is a psalm of praise, of thanksgiving, of pleading, of conversion and of commitment with the Creator and humanity?"

—Archbishop Roberto Gonzalez



"This encyclical is aimed at everyone. Let us pray that everyone can receive its message and grow in responsibility toward the common home that God has entrusted to us." — **Pope Francis, June 14, 2015**

The Canticle of the Sun

(Saint Francis of Assisi)

O Most High, all-powerful, good Lord God, to you
belong praise, glory, honor and all blessing.

Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures,
especially through my Brother Sun,
who brings us the day and the light;
he is strong and shines magnificently.



O Lord, we think of you
when we look at him.

Be praised, my Lord, for
Sister Moon,
and for the stars which you
have set shining and lovely
in the heavens.

Be praised, my Lord, for
our Brothers Wind and Air
and every kind of weather
by which you, Lord, uphold
life in all your creatures.

Be praised, my Lord, for
Sister Water,

who is very useful to us,
and humble and precious and pure.

Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Fire,
through whom you give us light in the darkness:
he is bright and lively and strong.

Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Earth, our Mother,
who nourishes us and sustains us, bringing forth
fruits and vegetables of many kinds
and flowers of many colors.

Be praised, my Lord, for those who forgive
for love of you;

and for those who bear sickness
and weakness in peace and patience.

By You, Most High, shall they be crowned.

Be praised, my Lord, for our Sister Death,
whom we must all face.

I praise and bless you, Lord; I give thanks to you,
I will serve you in all humility.



“Let us be ‘protectors’ of creation, protectors of
God’s plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one
another and of the environment.”

— Pope Francis

“Praise be to you, my Lord”

“In the words of this beautiful canticle, St. Francis of
Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister
with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother
who opens her arms to embrace us. “Praise be to you,
my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains
and governs us...” *Laudato Si’* (1)

This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we
have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse
of the goods with which God
has endowed her. We have
come to see ourselves as her
lords and masters, entitled to
plunder her at will. The violence
present in our hearts, wounded
by sin, is also reflected in the
symptoms of sickness evident
in the soil, in the water, in
the air and in all forms of life.
This is why the earth herself,
burdened and laid waste, is
among the most abandoned and maltreated of our
poor; she “groans in travail” (Rom 8:22). We have
forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (cf.
Gen2:7); our very bodies are made up of her elements,
we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment
from her waters.



Nothing in this world is indifferent to us.” *Laudato Si’* (2)

“A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature
cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion
and concern for our fellow human beings. *It is clearly
inconsistent to combat trafficking in endangered species
while remaining completely indifferent to human
trafficking, unconcerned about the poor, or undertaking
to destroy another human being deemed unwanted.*”

— Pope Francis, *Laudato Si’* (91)

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers,
intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,
1 Timothy 2:1*

Let us pray together today for the chronically ill: Sylvia
Tasner, Jerry and Albert Vega, Fr.
Vega, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, **Maggie
Maziarz** and Peter and Leida Fiorito.

*Let us pray as a community this
week that we allow the teachings of Jesus to reach into
the very core of our daily lives so that the vision of him
becomes what truly guides and rules how we live. Pray
to remember how easy it is to bend the knee to his name
but how difficult it is to bend the heart.*