Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures!

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 28, 2015

San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

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

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, Iraeneus, 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;

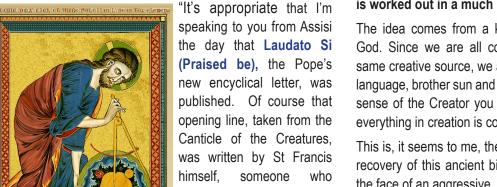
Anthropocentric

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..." LaudatoSi' (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.