



# Laudato Si'

*And*

## *How Catholic Social Teaching INCLUDES Environmental Justice*

"Pope Francis at Varghna" by Tânia Rêgo/ABr - Agência Brasil. Licensed under CC BY 3.0 br via Commons

Presented by:  
The Environmental Justice Project  
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Stockton



# Hello and Welcome!



**Please have a look at the starting questions in your workbook and discuss with those around you or in your group.**

# Opening Prayer

## Blessing for the Products of Nature

Blessed are you, O God, Creator of the universe, who have made all things good and given the earth for us to cultivate.

Grant that we may always use created things gratefully, and share your gift with those in need, out of the love of Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you for ever and ever. *Amen*

# Question Response

- **What is your understanding of Catholic social teachings (CST)?**
- **What is your understanding of Environmental Justice (EJ)?**
- **What is your understanding of the common good?**
- **How might CST, EJ, and the Common Good all be related?**



## We Are Here:

To recall the nine themes of Pope Francis' encyclical  
*Laudato Si'*

To learn how environmental justice is integrated  
with Catholic social teaching.

To learn what actions we can do and  
what resources are available.

# Pope Francis' Encyclical, Laudato Si'

**Key Message:** Climate change is a moral issue for all Catholics and people of goodwill.

- ★ The poor suffer the most despite contributing the least to climate change.
- ★ Improper care of the earth has led to severe consequences.
- ★ It's time to take responsibility for our consumer-driven culture.

Adapted from VIS.



<http://phys.org/news/2013-06-urban-indians-pollution.html>



Dry Soil by Petr Kratochvil



Carrying a Heavy Shopping Bag by Vera Kratochvil



A grayscale photograph of two hands, one on the left and one on the right, holding a large jigsaw puzzle. The puzzle is composed of several pieces, with one piece being held by the left hand and another by the right hand, as if they are about to be joined. The background is a plain, light color.

# Laudato Si': Nine Themes

1. The intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet.
2. The conviction that everything in the world is connected.
3. The critique of technology's influence on society.

Adapted  
from VIS.

# Laudato Si': Nine Themes

4. The call to seek other ways of understanding the economy and progress.

5. The value given to each creature in proper proportion.

6. The human meaning of ecology.

Adapted  
from VIS.





## Laudato Si': Nine Themes

7. The need for forthright and honest dialogue.
8. The serious responsibility of international and local policies.
9. The throwaway culture and the proposal of a new lifestyle.

Adapted  
from VIS.

# Laudato Si': Proposal

- To start an honest dialogue at every level of social economic and political life.
- To create understandable decision-making progress.
- To remind that nothing will work if we don't have a formed and responsible conscience.

Adapted  
from VIS.

# Catholic Social Teachings

*Includes*

## Environmental Justice



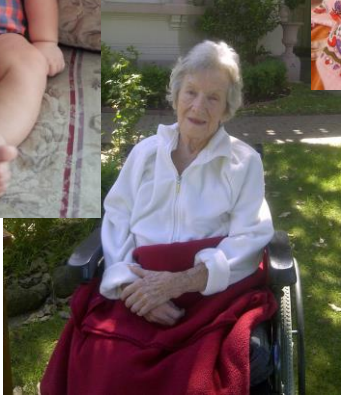
Poor by Lee Wag



Masked Woman by Peter Griffin

❖ Life & Dignity of the Human Person

➤ All life is sacred



Happy Baby by Yolanda Park  
Elderly Lady by Marea Howse  
Portrait of an Older Woman by Vera Kratochvil  
Electric Chair by Jane Fuller

Street Market by Peter Griffin  
Grandfather and Grandchild by George Hodan  
Hands in Chains by George Hodan

→ Population growth is not to blame, thus no pressure for abortion or birth control



→ Provide for future generations



→ Resources not exploitable

◆ Use and throwaway logic of waste and nature → same treatment of people; exploitation of children, abandoning elderly, human trafficking/slavery, selling pelts & blood diamonds



Adapted from USCCB and VIS.



❖ Call to Family, Community, & Participation

➤ We are a social people



→ Environmental problems → decline in life quality → breakdown of society

→ Our organization of our society (via laws) affects people's dignity

◆ If laws not allowing for environment, human dignity suffers; all are connected

→ Extend compassion to all

Policeman on Motorcycle by George Hodan  
Hands Together by Vera Kratochvil  
True Friendship by Vilem Skarolek

Migrant Worker by Peter Griffin  
Despair by Peter Griffin  
Helping Hands by Irene Marie Dorey

Adapted from USCCB and VIS.

## ❖ Rights & Responsibilities

### ➤ Human dignity & healthy community

→ Drinking water, water to bathe, breathable air, clean food, pollution free lands and neighborhoods, accessible transportation

→ Pollution causes health problems

→  $\wedge$ Temp  $\rightarrow$  dehydration, heat stroke/exhaustion, heart attack, stroke, respiratory distress

→  $\wedge$ Temp  $\rightarrow$   $\wedge$ sea levels  $\rightarrow$   $\wedge$ saltwater  $\rightarrow$  degradation of estuaries, wetlands, groundwater aquifers, freshwater supply; also  $\rightarrow$  disappearing coast (homes),  $\wedge$ storms & floods

→  $\wedge$ Temp  $\rightarrow$   $\wedge$ wildfires, shift in vegetation, vforest productivity & agriculture



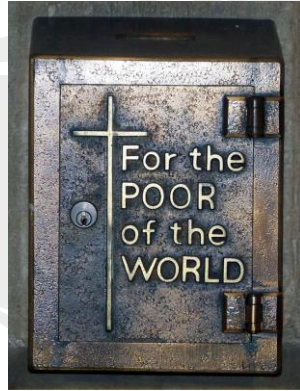
Running Free by Yolanda Park  
Shower Head by Petr Kratochvil  
Protest by Peter Griffin  
Water Glass by Peter Griffin  
Children protect their faces Hindustan Times/Getty  
Public domain image of Elizabeth City, North Carolina



Catholic Social Teaching  
Environmental Justice

❖ Option for the Poor & Vulnerable

➤ Basic moral test: How are our poor faring?



➔ Poor don't have ^options for consequences

- ◆ health care (^temp)
- ◆ location (coast, prime land)
- ◆ food/water

➔ Right to quality of life w/in environment

➔ Wealthy ^responsibility  
→ ^^impact that affect the poor



Adapted from USCCB and VIS.

## ❖ The Dignity of Work & the Rights of Workers

- Economy must serve people, not other way around

→ ^Temp → forests: ^wildfires, vforest productivity

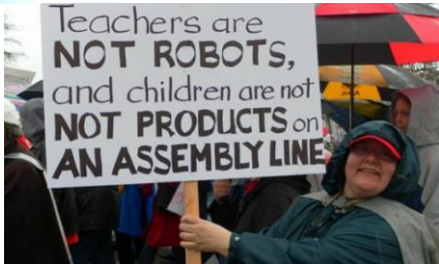
→ Pope: investment of people = good business rather than focusing on short-term gain

→ ^Temp → agriculture: water demand, crops (premature ripening & vquality), expanding range of weeds, ^pests (^breeding season, ^disease growth, ^range of habitat)

◆ → change of plants → ^human changes of plants (GMOs) moving power from farmers to scientists & people with money; pesticides → health

Adapted from USCCB and VIS.

→ Use & throw away logic → treat our farm workers → exploitation of their work (vsoil fertility, pollution of water supply for crops, overworked soil, clearing of forests → efforts to survive = unsustainable practices) & vhuman dignity → vquality of life

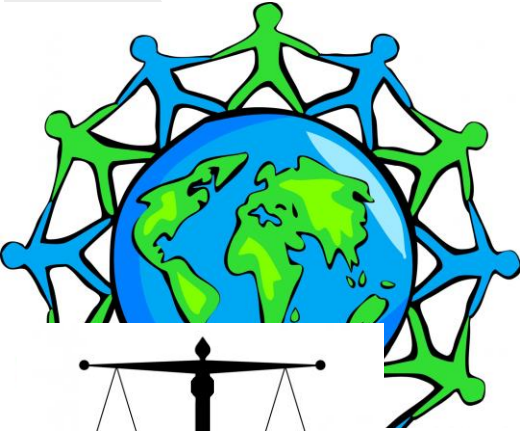




Catholic Social Teaching  
Environmental Justice

❖ Solidarity

➢ We're one family no matter our differences

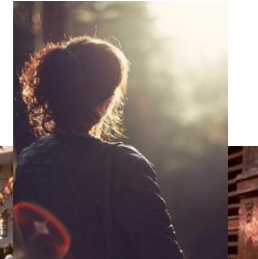


peace-of-mind Public Domain  
INDIA\_(f)\_0905\_-\_Madre\_Teresa  
by Asia News

- ➔ Bishop Blaire: “Personal decisions have social consequences.”
- ➔ Call for integral ecology which respects our unique place as human beings in this world and our relationship to our surroundings
- ➔ Nature neither separate from ourselves nor a mere setting which we live

Adapted from USCCB and VIS.

- ➔ Right to pursue peace of mind about our actions, our health, our life
- ➔ Called to care for all our brothers and sisters in Christ, including their rights to life



EJP Logo  
White Dove by George Hodan  
Scales of Justice by Karen Arnold  
Global People by Dawn Hudson  
cross-and-dove-symbol by Dawn Hudson  
Social-Networking-Development  
man-with-children-in-nature by  
Hollingsworth John and Karen, U.S.  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
kayaking-on-calm-waters-pristine-  
nature by Hillebrand Steve, U.S.  
Fish and Wildlife Service

❖ Care for God's Creation

- Showing our respect for God by our stewardship of creation



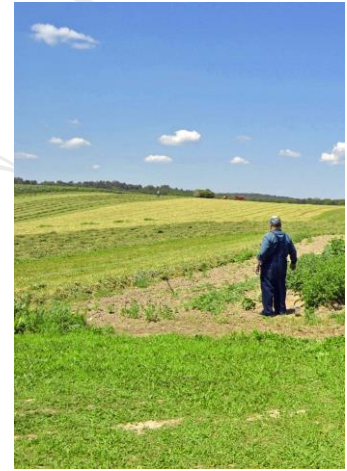
→ Invitation to conversion of heart despite difficulties of personal change



→ Stewards of the earth and of each other

◆ We live neither apart from our environment nor from what's a part of it

Adapted from USCCB and VIS.



# Questions to Consider

See Workbook





# Green Action!

## Personal Community & Beyond

- Turn off your engine rather than idling when you are stopped for more than a minute
- Take shorter showers
- Buy from local farmer's markets

## Work/School

- Turn off all electronics, including TVs and computers, when not in use
- Purchase Energy Star appliances
- Use both sides of paper before recycling it

- Start a community garden
- Learn how to lobby local, state, and federal officials
- Adopt a highway or waterway





# What Else Could We Do?



Home Energy by George Hodan  
Hands of the World by Fran Hodan  
Protecting the Earth by Dawn Hudson

## Questions to Consider

- What am I doing now to care for our planet?
- What will I be personally willing to do for our planet?
- How can I apply the suggested ideas for Green Action apply to my work or school?
- How can I apply the suggested ideas for Green Action to my community?

## Possible Answers to Common Questions:

- When busy with other things, how can I find the time to help the environment?

*Share the problem by creating a “green team!”*

- There are so many things that have high priority, what do we need to “give up” in order to save money and the environment?

*Long-term sustainability will be because of better choices now, and reduction doesn't mean completely giving up*

- I'm just one person, what good can I do?

*Almost all great ideas began with one person...who shared it! Think of Noah, the pope writes: “All it takes is one good person to restore hope” (71)*

- Even if I did have the time, the issue is overwhelmingly huge, where would I even start?

*Start with yourself, then expand to family, then to community, then to nationally.*

## **Remember!**

### **The goals of Laudato Si' are part of Catholic Social Teaching goals:**

- To bring people together for honest and open dialogue regarding the state of our environment and our relationship to it and to each other.
- Develop a formed and responsible conscience and have an ecological conversion.
- Work together for the common good on all levels of society.

Adapted from VIS.

## Closing Prayer

### Prayer of St. Francis

Dear mother earth, who day by day unfolds rich blessings on our way,

O praise God! Alleluia!

The fruits and flowers that verdant grow,

let them his praise abundant show.

O praise God, O praise God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

# Thank You!

## Feel free to contact us:

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**Follow us!** Facebook: Environmental Justice Project

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YouTube: Environmental Justice Project

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## Further Resources:

Catholic Climate Covenant

<http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/>

Global Catholic Climate Movement

<https://catholicclimatemovement.global/>

Catholic Ecology

<http://catholicecology.net/>

**We can provide Advocacy Training, do book clubs, presentations, give resources, and more!**