

ENCYCLICAL LETTER  
**LAUDATO SI'**  
OF POPE FRANCIS  
**ON CARE FOR OUR  
COMMON HOME**

QUESTION AT THE HEART OF  
THE ENCYCLICAL:

**"What kind of world  
do you want to  
leave to those who  
come after us?"** 150

Concern for the environment  
is no longer optional.  
A person of faith should show  
even more responsibility  
regarding creation, which is  
a gift from God.

**THE TITLE**

Taken from St. Francis' prayer: *Canticle of the Creatures*. It reminds us that the earth "is like a sister with whom we share our life." 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." 2



**INCLUDE IN YOUR  
EXAMINATION OF  
CONSCIENCE:**  
How have I lived in  
communion with all  
creatures and with  
nature?

**THE MESSAGE**

"Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home." 13 We are capable of rising above ourselves, "choosing again what is good, and making a new start." 205



**Laudato Si' is a  
call to conversion  
and action,  
an invitation to  
change direction  
by taking on the  
task of caring for  
our common  
home.**



**MAIN THEMES**

1. the relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet
2. the conviction that **everything in the world is connected**
3. the critique of new paradigms and forms of power derived from technology
4. the call to **seek other ways of understanding** the economy and progress
5. the value proper to **each creature**
6. the **human meaning** of ecology
7. the need for direct and honest **debate**
8. the serious responsibility of **international and local policy**
9. the throwaway culture and the proposal of a **new lifestyle**



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of Toronto

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SOURCE: www.vatican.va

Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment, "**Laudato Sii**" (Praised Be)\* will be released on **June 18, 2015**

\*The title is taken from St. Francis of Assisi's *Canticle of the Creatures*, a prayer praising God for creation



**What is an encyclical anyway?**

- "encyclical" means "circular letter"  
FROM THE GREEK "EGKYKLIOS"; "KYKLOS" MEANS A CIRCLE
- Encyclicals are formal letters written by popes meant for teaching
- They contain the pope's views on church teachings and doctrine on a particular topic
- They may be addressed to Catholics and all people of good will

The first encyclical was released by Pope Benedict XIV in  
**1740**

Popes have written over  
**300**  
encyclicals in total

Number of encyclicals by recent popes	Francis 2013-present	Benedict XVI 2005-2013	John Paul II 1978-2005
	2	3	14

Pope Francis' upcoming encyclical will be the **first to focus directly on the environment**

Pope Francis has always shown concern for the environment...

He chose his papal name after the **patron saint of ecology** St. Francis of Assisi



In his inaugural Mass, he called on everyone to be: **"protectors of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment"**

**Pope Francis' 1st Encyclical**

YEAR: 2013  
TITLE: "**Lumen Fidei**"  
(The Light of Faith)  
THEME: the theological virtue of Faith  
THIS COMPLETES THE WORK THAT POPE BENEDICT XVI STARTED BEFORE HIS RESIGNATION

**Pope Francis' 2nd Encyclical**

YEAR: 2015  
TITLE: "**Laudato Sii**"  
(Praised Be)



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SOURCES: www.vatican.va  
www.pewresearch.org | www.saltandlighttv.org